



## CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM IN SHEFFIELD AND BERKSHIRES

Sheffield's own Mum Bett is to be honored at 225th Anniversary of milestone court case that helped end slavery in Massachusetts. Passers-by to the Col. Ashley House on Cooper Hill Rd in Ashley Falls would never guess from its serene exterior what nationally historic events began within its four walls. Generations of local students and visitors fortunate enough to have explored the Ashley House or the Sheffield Historical Society's Dan Raymond House have learned about Elizabeth Freeman (better known as "Mumbet" or "Mum Bett"), the Sheffield Declaration and Theodore Sedgewick, but most people are unaware of the role that Ashley Falls and Sheffield played in the national struggle for freedom—both in terms of the country's efforts to break free from Great Britain and African Americans to break free from the bonds of slavery.

Mum Bett was a slave in the Ashley household who sued for her freedom after hearing Col. Ashley and other local landowners' discussions involved in crafting the "Sheffield Declaration," passed by the Town of Sheffield in January of 1773. The

Declaration was a series of resolutions that predate the Bill of Rights. The first two resolutions, which held that "mankind in a state of nature are equal, free, and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed enjoyment of their lives, their liberty and property" and "the great end of political society is to secure in a more effectual manner those rights and privileges wherewith God and nature have made us free."

**First Slaves Freed in Massachusetts.** On August 21 at 2pm in front of the Great Barrington Town Hall there will be a celebration of the 225th Anniversary of the Brom & Bett v. Ashley court case in which Elizabeth Freeman and an African American man named Brom won their freedom from the Ashley family. The Town Hall stands on the location of the original county Court of Common Pleas, where the decision was handed down on August 21, 1781 making Mumbet and Brom "the first enslaved African Americans to be freed under the Massachusetts constitution of 1780," according to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The jury found that they "are not and were not the legal Negro servants of the said John Ashley during their life" and also awarded them 30 shillings and their legal and court costs. Their case was then used as precedent for later state court cases and is attributed ultimately with leading to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts. Mumbet and Brom were represented by local attorneys, Theodore Sedgewick and Tapping Reeve. Of further significance, according to the Massachusetts Historical Society, the case made Mumbet the first African American woman in the country to be freed from slavery.

While the Ashleys asked Mumbet to return as a free woman with paid wagees, she preferred to live and work for the Sedgewicks as their housekeeper until moving to her own home from which she worked as a nurse and mid-wife. She died in 1892 and is buried in the Sedgewick family plot in Stockbridge. Her epitaph, written by Charles Sedgewick begins "She was born a slave and remained a slave for nearly thirty years. She could neither read nor write yet

*Continued on page 3*

## RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION

In the only contested race in the Town elections held on May 8, Jim Collingwood was elected Selectman, receiving 357 votes out of a total of 610 votes cast. His opponent, Dick Kirchner, received 253 votes. In uncontested races, Bruce Person was reelected to the post of Town Moderator with 506 favorable votes; Tony Gulotta and Chris Tomich, were elected to fill open seats on the Planning Board, receiving 426 and 444 votes, respectively; and last

but not least, Betty LeGeyt was reelected Library Trustee with 526 votes.

Town Clerk Felecie Joyce was pleased with the number of newly registered younger people who voted at the meeting and the election. At the invitation of the Mount Everett High School she and the town clerk of Egremont recently ran a voter registration drive at the school which netted about 20 new voters.

The annual Town Meeting was held

on May 1 at the Mt. Everett school auditorium.

Of a total of 2,185 registered voters, 280 voters attended, only 12.8 percent. While better than some other years, this is still a disappointing turnout. All budget articles in the Warrant for the meeting were approved (mostly by overwhelming majorities) except for two—one for a sidewalk snow plow and the other for a radar speed monitoring device for the

*Continued on page 3*

### In This Issue

#### Community

Shiminski Receives National Awards	4
Leaving Sheffield and Coming Back	5
Sheffield Fair	6
Millie's Garden Dedicated at Library	7
Cemetery Project	8
Church News	9
Library News	10

#### Government

Village Green	12
Kops 'N Kids, Fire Log	14
Conservation Commission	15
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes	16
Planning Board Update	18
Organizations & Business	
Art League Scholarship Winners	20

Spill the Beans Coffee Shop	20
Sheffield Business Park	21
Historical Society News	22
Kiwanis News	22
Community Trails	24
Bartholomew's Cobble Events	25
Real Estate Transfers	22
Calendar Page	23



## HOW TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Submit articles, news items, photos or illustrations

Have an idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Have a new business venture? Let us know! Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. For feature stories, please run suggestions by the editors first.

### Tell us about your events

Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

### Advertise

We accept ads for services and products connected with Sheffield. Eighth-pages to half-pages available. Ad policy is in box below. Contact Tara White at 229-7754 or sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com for rates or more information.

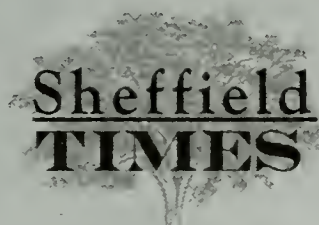
### Support our advertisers

Most of our advertisers are local. Tell them you read about them here.

The Sheffield Times is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and you get the Sheffield Times in the mail. See the form page 23.

Sheffield Times  
P.O. Box 1339  
Sheffield, MA 01257  
E-mail: sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

**Sept./Oct.  
Deadline: August 15**



Community Newsletter for  
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA

Issue Editors: Kathy Orlando &  
Andrea Scott; Library Editor: Peter  
Rowntree; Design and Layout: Cassie  
Lynch; Advertising Sales: Tara White;  
Staff: Sandy & Dale Alden, Rae East-  
man, Fred Gordon, Gillian Hettinger,  
Ellen Rowntree, Judy Schumer, Ellen  
Weiss, Barbara West, John Wightman

Published by:  
The Sheffield Association  
P.O. Box 1339  
Sheffield, MA 01257

Photo Credits: Kathy Orlando p. 4, 26;  
Amelia Wolfe p. 6, 21; John Wightman  
p. 12

### Advertise in a hometown paper!

The *Sheffield Times*  
accepts  
advertisements...

- From Sheffield businesses and residents
- From businesses and services outside of Sheffield that benefit Sheffield residents
- No editorial or political advertisements

Contact Tara White at 229-  
7754 or  
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.  
com for rates and more  
information.

## THANK YOU

The Sheffield Times relies on  
generous contributions from  
the community in addition to  
advertising to keep this free  
newsletter going. Donations are  
tax-deductible. See the coupon  
on page 27.

The Sheffield Times extends its  
thanks to the following recent  
supporters:

Anonymous  
Peter Cherneff & Hester Velmans  
Christine & Joseph Kelley  
Moon in the Pond Farm  
Phyllis Samuals



in her own sphere she had no superior or equal..."

The program on Aug. 21 will feature remarks by local historians, citizens, and politicians, with a plaque commemorating the court case being unveiled as part of the site's becoming a stop on the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. Following the program there will be an Open House at the Ash-

ley House.

The events are sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society, The Trustees of Reservations, and the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. For more information call The Trustees of Reservations at (413) 298-8146 or visit their web site at [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).

For information on the Sheffield Historical Society visit its website

at [www.sheffieldhistory.org](http://www.sheffieldhistory.org), e-mail [shs@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:shs@sheffieldhistory.org) or call 229-2694; on the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail visit [www.uhvafamtrail.org](http://www.uhvafamtrail.org) or e-mail [afamtrail@hotmail.com](mailto:afamtrail@hotmail.com) or call 528-3391.

More information on Mumbet is available in a book of the same name, "Sheffield: Frontier Town," available from the Sheffield Historical Society, and from a documentary produced as part of PBS's "Africans in America" series. There is also a play "All This Freedom Talk" by Art Chase written about Mumbet.

(See related events and stories on page 22 and 25.)

## ROAD TO HOME

The commemoration on July 21 is part of a broad regional celebration of the Upper Housatonic Valley's African American Heritage with "a unique constellation of events that will illuminate the rich, though largely untold story of African Americans in the Upper Housatonic Valley," which run through Oct. These events are being coordinated by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail, Sheffield Historical Society, The Trustees of Reservations and other organizations.

Below are some highlights, with references as to where to find more information.

Aug. 5- Oct. 29, "If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window" exhibit at the Sheffield Historical Society's Old Stone Store will highlight African American heritage in the Southern Berkshires (see p. 22 for details).

July 1 & Aug. 10, Quest for Mum Bett, 10am-2pm at Bartholomew's Cobble (see p. 25 for details).

July 20, an evening of selected readings from *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois in conjunction with the exhibit "Frederick Remington and the American Civil War: A Ghost Story," 5:30pm at Norman Rockwell Museum)

Interestingly, W.E.B. Du Bois believed that Mumbet was an ancestor.

Sept. 14 book event for publication of 250-page trail guide bringing together years of work by scholars, historians, educators and community leaders entitled "African American Heritage in the Upper Housatonic Valley," 7pm, MCLA.

Sept. 15, 8am-11am, inaugural tour of Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. The Symposium *If They Close the Door on You, Go In the Window* follows at 11am (see p. 22 for details), and the dedication of the trail and its anchors site, the Col. Ashley Hosue is at 3:30pm at the Ashley House. Buses start at MCLA with local and state officials, stop at the Samuel Harrison House in Pittsfield, the W.E.B. Du Bois Boyhood Homesite in Gt. Barrington, and other trail sites ending at the Col. Ashley House in Ashley Falls.

Sept. 15, Margaret A. Hart Memorial Gospel Festival, 8pm, Church Street Center Auditorium, North Adams. Sept. 16, National Conference: "The Shaping Role of Place; African American Biography" all day, MCLA. (For information visit [www.mcla.edu/aab](http://www.mcla.edu/aab), e-mail [F.Jones-Sneed@mcla.edu](mailto:F.Jones-Sneed@mcla.edu) or call (413) 662-5541.

## Election Results Continued from page 1

Police Department. As usual, by far the largest single budget item was \$4,636,814 to cover the town's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's operating budget.

In addition, several articles amending the town's Zoning Bylaws were passed by the requisite two-thirds majorities. One of these provides for the regulation of adult entertainment establishments, a second for the non-criminal disposition of violations of the bylaws and, a third modifies and enhances the Water Protection District. Two other special warrant item were also passed; one provides for the creation of an Agricultural Commission as a follow-up to last year's right-to-farm bylaw, the other provides for the acceptance of a gift of land from the Sheffield Post Home, toward the construction of a Senior Center, under a series of cooperative conditions. All of these items are in keeping with the Master Plan, and continue the Town's progress on its implementation.

—Peter Rowntree

## CARL VAN DEUSEN

ELECTRICIAN - MA LIC. #36403E

HEATING / AIR CONDITIONING

MA LIC. #BU024769 / CT LIC. #353948

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE TRADES

ZENEX CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR - SALES, SERVICE,  
INSTALLATION

PHONE: 413-229-8624



ALFORD FARM REALTY, INC.  
248 East Road, Alford, MA 01266

Joel Weiss  
Sales Associate

413-528-4201~Fax 413-528-5629  
Residence 413-229-8061~Fax 413-229-8078  
Email [pw213@worldnet.att.net](mailto:pw213@worldnet.att.net)



## PRODUCE GALORE AT THE FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers' Market continues to expand, currently with 20 vendors. Fully half the vendors have a wealth of delicious, locally grown produce from tomatoes and squash to corn and pumpkins in season. And then there is the honey, plants, baked goods, breads, olive oils and cheeses as well.

In addition to the regular vendors, each week there is a different local crafter and an open house for a local business or organization; and two local violinists, Jeffrey Lowenstein and Edmon Stumo, entertain shoppers as they stroll from booth to booth.

Berkshire Grown and the Master Gardener will be at the Market periodically throughout the season and special events are scheduled. July 7 and 21 there will be Happy Dog Day Care with the addition of Clowns on the 21st. Aug. 18 is Kids Day with an assortment of activities, as well as Kerry Douglas with his pottery, the Sheffield Historical Society

Farmers Market Vendors	
Barb's baked goods—assorted baked goods, jams, salsas & bread pudding	Farm House Bakers—assorted baked goods
Berkshire Mountain Bakery—sour dough breads and more	Greener Leaf Greenhouse—plants
Bizalions Fine Foods—olive oil, grinders, cheeses, and more	High Country Farm - plants, produce, eggs
Chart Mind Gallery—herbal plants	Honey
Chubby Bunny—produce	Howden Farms—plants, produce and pumpkins and sweet corn (in season)
Corn crib—flowers and herbal plants, produce, sweet corn (in season)	Lakeview Orchards—fresh fruit, cider doughnuts and more
David's Melons—melons	Moon in the Pond Farm—produce and meats
Decadent cookie—miniature and custom cakes, cookies and bundt cakes	When Pigs Fly Farm—plants and tomatoes
Dutch Desserts—pies and tarts	Young Farmers Table—produce, eggs and more
Equinox Farm—salads and greens	

and Salisbury Bank and Trust will be on hand with hotdogs, hamburgers and balloons. Another Kids Day is planned for Sept. 22.

The Market is open every Friday from 3:30-6:30 through October 6.

## SHIMINSKI RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS

Dr. Jim Shiminski of Sheffield, and Title I director for the Pittsfield Public Schools, received a state leadership award in Washington D.C. on March 27 from the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators. This prestigious award is presented to a Title I director who has displayed outstanding leadership and a strong degree of caring for children in need, and works tirelessly to promote activities which will benefit those children and their families, in both his community and throughout the state and nation. Dr Shiminski was nominated and chosen by his peers throughout the entire state of Massachusetts because of the knowledge and leadership he has personally brought to the state Title I organization.

On May 10, he was again honored by the National Parent-Child Home program at its annual conference in Garden City New York for his contributions in promoting early childhood programs in Massachusetts and nationally. It was noted that his data and national recognition for the Pittsfield program has contrib-

uted to replication initiatives throughout Massachusetts and the country, and he was saluted as Mr. Parent-Child Home Program.

Dr. Shiminski is a product of the Worcester Massachusetts Public Schools and has received degrees from Fitchburg State College, North Adams State College, Westfield State College and The University of Massachusetts. He began his career as an educator in 1955 as the first industrial arts teacher at Mount Everett Regional School, and during his seventeen year tenure at Mount Everett he also served as a coach, director of adult education and vice principal. He later joined the Massachusetts Department of Education as the western regional supervisor for vocational technical education, a position he held for nineteen years. For the past fourteen and a half years he has been the Title I Director for the Pittsfield Public Schools during which time the early childhood program has been recognized nationally on numerous occasions. In addition, he has been a visiting professor at Westfield State College since 1975.



*Young farmers' selling their harvest from past Farmer's Market.*

On Feb. 9, 2006 Jim officially retired from the Pittsfield Public Schools, ending a fifty plus year career as an educator. However, he will continue on a part time basis for the foreseeable future. At that time he received recognition from numerous organizations including a proclamation from the Mayor of Pittsfield, a plaque from the Pittsfield Superintendent of Schools, and certificates of appreciation from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, The Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate, The Department of Early Education and Care, The Pittsfield Community Partnership for Children and many kind words from his colleagues and family.

He has been married to Barbara for 47 years and together they have two children, Tania of New York City, Kyle of Southlake Texas and three grandchildren.



# LEAVING SHEFFIELD AND COMING BACK

Sheffield, Massachusetts is my birthplace and was my home for 18 years. I attended pre-kindergarten at the one-room schoolhouse in South Egremont, kindergarten in Ashley Falls, grade school at Undermountain Elementary School, and graduated from high school at Mt. Everett. Aside from a trip to Germany, a trip to Disney World, and a summer week at the beach, I can confidently state that more than most of those 18 years were spent in Sheffield itself.

As I reflect, I realize that I came to know many things during those 18 years growing up here, but the things that I was learning were always changing, as are the things I am learning now. At five years old, I knew that I loved school and my new companions. At ten years old, I knew that I still had the same friends as when I was five, and I still loved them. At 15 years old, I knew that I still had the same friends as when I was ten, and I still loved them, but I needed a change. I gradually became aware that big, important,

and interesting places were everywhere and anywhere that was not southern Berkshire County. I knew I needed to leave, as did my best friend. After our high school graduation, we traveled

*I know that I left Sheffield long enough to miss it, and I know that I am extremely happy and proud to be home.*

the furthest of all of our classmates—I participated in an abroad program in Ecuador, and Chrissy attended the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, California. During our first year away, we only had one brief telephone conversation in which we both secretly confessed one thing—we missed home. And we intended “home” to mean much more than our house or bedroom or yard, but also our town,

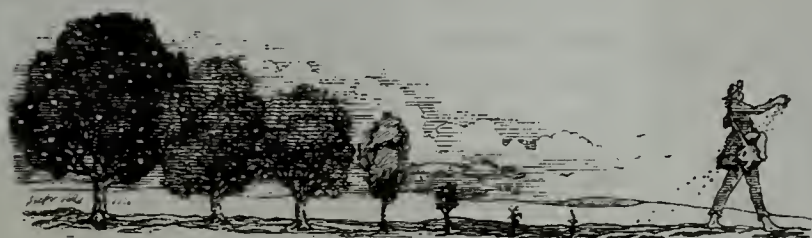


Sheffield native Amelia Wolfe talks about appreciating home. Amelia is assisting the Sheffield Times this summer as a production intern.

our old school, trees, swimming holes and so much more. And although Chrissy will be a junior at Berkeley next year, and I will undoubtedly participate in another abroad program, each summer we leave here both very sad and very appreciative.

In my search and subsequent discovery of new people and societies, I ended up learning more about the one I come from. Now at 20, I know that I left Sheffield long enough to miss it, and I know that I am extremely happy and proud to be home.

—Amelia Wolfe



Here to help make things grow.



**SALISBURY BANK  
AND TRUST COMPANY**

(860) 435-9801 or 1-800-222-9801  
SBT Link 1-877-SBT-1212  
salisburybank.com

Visit us in Sheffield at 73 Main Street, (413) 229-5000  
and in South Egremont at 51 Main Street, (413) 528-5100

ATMs at all offices

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender



**Sheffield Pottery** -Since 1946-  
The Berkshire's Best Selection of Handcrafted American Pottery

*Celebrating Our 60th Year In Business!*



Custom Wedding And Anniversary  
Plates, Birth Plates and Famous  
Family Tree Platters.

ALSO OFFERING

:BENNINGTON  
:SIMON PEARCE  
:SPONGEWARE  
:REDWARE



*Retail Pottery Showroom  
Featuring Works By  
Over 90 American Artisans*

rt 7. sheffield, MA

1.888.spi.clay  
sheffieldpottery.com



## PREPARATION FOR SHEFFIELD FAIR CONTINUES

This year the Sheffield Fair on September 9, will lead into the annual Kiwanis Steak Roast (which this year will benefit the Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department). This exciting collaboration will mean a whole day and evening of fun and community events!

The Fair runs from 3-7pm and will include all the music, food, vendors and activities you have come to expect (and more!), but rather than going home when it gets dark, families can head over to the Firehouse for a fabulous meal, more music to support two worthy organizations. Look for details closer to the event and in the Celebra-

tion flyer.

Letters will shortly be going out to all those who have so generously supported this effort in the past (thank you!) but if you don't receive one or want to get ahead of the curve, contributions can be sent to Sheffield in Celebration, P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257.

The Sheffield Times is an inexpensive way to reach Sheffield customers. Contact Tara White at 229-7754 for information on how to advertise.

**Vendors & Volunteers.** Those interested in being vendors or exhibitor should contact Dave Smith at 229-9956. Volunteers are also still being sought to help with publicity, calls, set-up, breakdown and running activities. Food court call Barb Davidson at 229-8091.

—Sheffield in Celebration Committee

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) is looking for interested people to assist the Town of Sheffield in addressing the issue of Affordable Housing.

Tasks are emerging from the initial work of the Affordable Housing IAC subcommittee and energized people to help on either short- or long-term projects are needed.

For more information, contact Bart Elsbach (229-2003) or Julie Hannum (229-8980).

## TOWN HALL WITH OLD HIGH SCHOOL GONE

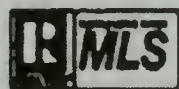


After advertising it four times, the historic old school building and Fuller Barn was recently removed to make way for more parking next to Town Hall.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**VENDORS, EXHIBITORS, & VOLUNTEERS WANTED**  
for Sheffield in Celebration  
Saturday, September 9, 2006  
*Also*  
Sept. 15th Family BBQ & Farm Tours.  
*Stay tuned for details.*



**ISGOOD REALTY**



490 MAIN STREET  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
BUS: (413) 528-2040  
FAX: (413) 528-6516  
RES: (413) 229-8829  
isgood@vgernet.net

ANN MORELLI SMITH  
SALES ASSOCIATE

## SHEFFIELD WATER CO., INC.

A Privately Owned Public Utility  
*Serving Sheffield Since 1895*

### Pure Water Without Purification

1080 S. Undermountain Rd.  
PO Box 295  
Sheffield, MA 01257  
413-229-2777



## "MILLIE'S GARDEN" DEDICATED AT LIBRARY

About 50 people attended the dedication of "Millie's Garden" at the Library on Saturday June 24.

Millie Smith, famous for "force feeding" prunes, sauerkraut and lima beans to generations of Sheffield school children and making sure that all ate their lunch, was the head cook of the former Sheffield Center School (now the Library's home) for 27 years, as well as a school bus driver for 23 years. She is remembered with a great deal of respect and affection in the town and was the unanimous choice of those who were asked to suggest names of Sheffield notables to whom the garden might be dedicated.

Speakers included the Master of Ceremonies Chief McGarry, State Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli and Selectman David Macy. The Library's gazebo served as the podium, and was crammed with Millie's sons, a sister and their families.

Millie's Garden was completed in virtually one day last August, mainly with donated masonry, trees, shrubs and

other plantings. It was the brainchild of Library Director Nancy Hahn and designed by landscaper Chris Tomich. Chris and landscaping contractor Tom Ingersoll supervised and organized the volunteer labor force of almost 50 local contractors, businesses and citizens.

The crowd included another Selectmen, other Smith family members, Friends of the Library, Library Trustees, volunteer workers on the garden and

other Sheffield residents.

Refreshments were served in the Library after the ceremony.

### VOLUNTEER WANTED

The Senior Center is planning to resume its salad bar at the Sheffield Fair, September 9 and would welcome salads and salad makers. Please call 229-7022 for more information.

### A PIGGE ROAST BY ANY NAME

Enjoy small-town American at its best. The Sheffield Historical Society is holding its 4th annual old-fashioned pig roast and 3rd annual craft fair at the American Legion grounds (corner of Cook Ave. and Route 7) on August 26. This year, in addition to pork, Scott Ryan, Master Roaster, will be offering roast beef and turkey.

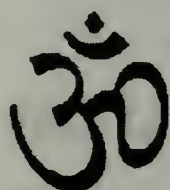
The crafters will be exhibiting their wares on the lawn on the grounds from 10am-4pm. Some will be demonstrating their crafts during the day. The dessert judging will take place at 3. The meal will be served from 4-6:30. The menu includes roast meat, baked beans, corn-on-the-cob, salads, dessert, and all the fixings. Adults \$17 (pre-paid \$15), children \$8, children under 8 free. Adult take-outs are also available.

Call the Sheffield Historical Society at 229-2694 for reservations and information.



### Vince Gulotta

Licensed Massage Therapist



Kripalu Bodywork and  
Therapeutic Massage

413-717-1543



**Financial  
Freedom**

THE REVERSE MORTGAGE SPECIALIST®  
A SUBSIDIARY OF

**IndymacBank**

**Jessica Krupski**  
**Reverse Mortgage Specialist**  
**Sheffield, MA**

[JKrupski@financialfreedom.com](mailto:JKrupski@financialfreedom.com)

**413-229-9908 Direct**

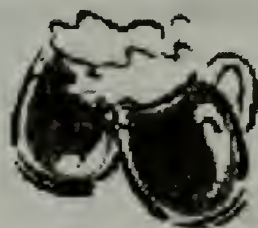
**800-860-6983 Toll Free**

**413-229-2210 Fax**

10713 Birmingham Way  
Woodstock, Maryland 21163  
[www.financialfreedom.com](http://www.financialfreedom.com)

*silk's variety*

**Beer/Wine/Spirits  
and much more!!**



107 main street  
sheffield, ma  
413.229.8702

**Neighborhoods local creations**

105 Main Street, Sheffield, MA (413) 229-5941

IT'S A STORE, IT'S A GALLERY, IT'S A WAY TO  
SUPPORT LOCAL ART, MUSIC, CRAFTS ALL UN-  
DER ONE ROOF.

COME SEE WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE UP TO!

Hours: Friday 12-5:30, Saturday 10-4  
Sunday 12-4, Monday 10-4



## CEMETERY PROJECT REPORTS ON PROGRESS

The Sheffield Cemetery Project was started by Jim Miller and Tammy Blackwell last summer to restore several of the town's burial sites. It was prompted by the damage done in Barnard Cemetery on Route 7 by an ancient maple tree that fell and smashed historic markers, some from the 1750s. Funds were raised for professional restoration by a letter-writing campaign to the Sheffield community. Less specialized labor has been provided by volunteers. Working with markers that can weigh hundreds of pounds and have a base that goes three feet into the ground is not a warm-weather activity. The coming of cooler weather in September saw a flurry of activity in Barnard Cemetery. Eight stones lying flat on the ground were reset to perpendicular, and two marble bases were dug up to be reattached to their upper, hand-carved, mates. In addition, fragments of another stone were collected and delivered for restoration.

Activities were rained out for much of

October, but with the assistance of Ram Gopal, Ricky Bernstein and John-Arthur Miller, we managed to straighten an additional 18 stones and four more fallen markers were reset. In November, with the help of Neal Chamberlain, his son Ethan and Alex Tatro, we reset six more fallen markers.

The next significant workday was not until spring, when 20 additional stones were straightened and the last remaining fallen stone reset. The spring work was aided by Mt. Everett senior Garrett Holmes. Other volunteers have included Ron Bassett, Inez Flinn, Lois Levinsohn, Catherine Miller and Rene Wood.

Except for the reinstallation of stones presently out for repair and those to be worked on *in situ*, this nearly completes the work to be done in the Barnard Cemetery. The bit that remains will require careful planning and heavy machinery.

Attention then turned to the smaller Churchill Cemetery on Salisbury Road,

where 37 stones were straightened and two that had fallen were returned to upright. Those two were for Ashael Savage and his wife, Jemima. It was Ashael, the best and most prolific stonecutter of Sheffield in the 19th century, who carved many of the monuments that received attention in the Barnard Cemetery. Garrett Holmes also assisted with this project.

Our attention is now focusing on the third project, Hewins Street Cemetery, where the process goes on—at least when the weather cooperates. The ultimate, ambitious goal is to work through the remaining grounds that are not under private care, i.e., Brush Hill, Home Road, The Plain, Candee and Sage off Route 41, Ward on Barnum Street and the Old Ashley Falls Cemetery.

We are always looking for volunteers or contributions. Those who wish to participate may call 229-8668 or send a donation to Cemetery Project, Box 7, Sheffield, MA 01257.

—James Miller

### PASTEL - WATERCOLOR- OIL PAINTINGS

By

Lois Van Cleef

Casa Mia Studio

Ashley Falls, Massachusetts

413/229-3355

*The Enchanted Florist*  
[www.enchanted-florist.net](http://www.enchanted-florist.net)

*Specializing in Weddings,  
Parties & Special Events*

413-229-8430

935 Rt. 7a in Ashley Falls

Barbara Morgan & Jude Kent

Master License  
#A9383

Fully Insured  
30 Years Experience

## Joe Seward & Sons, Inc.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

-Residential -Commercial  
-Industrial

- New Construction
- Landscape Lighting
- Renovations
- Modular Homes

**413-229-2561**



## CHURCH NEWS

**Christ Church Episcopal's Annual Parish Fair.** Saturday, Aug. 12 is the date of Christ Church Episcopal's Annual Parish Fair. This is a much-anticipated annual event that has been going on for over 70 years! The bouncing slide for kids will attract your attention, as will the Big Tent Tag Sale. Crafters and artisans will have their goods for sale and the church's cadre of excellent cooks will sell homemade baked goods, jams, flowers, and our latest item—frozen casseroles ready for a quick delicious dinner. Tickets will be on sale and the drawing will be held for the annual quilt raffle. This year's quilt/puff was lovingly stitched by Anne Tryon from vintage and modern fabric and is called, "Weathered Logs."

There will be games for the kids, fresh donut holes from Virginia Drury's tried and true recipe, and hot dogs, burgers and other yummy lunch fare. Don't miss the book sale, musical performances by the Teen and Junior Choirs, and tours of the beautiful sanctuary with its Tiffany Windows. This year at the end of the day there will also be take-out BBQ Chicken Dinners. All are welcome. The proceeds from the Annual Fair go to help the church and its local Outreach Ministries. The hours will be from 10-6. See you there! Information: 229-8811

—Rev. Annie Ryder

**Summer TAIZE Worship at Christ Church Episcopal.** Christ Church Episcopal will be offering TAIZE worship services at 7pm, on the last Wednesday of the summer months: June 28, July 26, and Aug. 30. TAIZE worship originated in a tiny village in France where an ecumenical monastic community was founded for the purpose of reconciliation. The simple service includes brief scriptural readings, a period of silence, and prayers interspersed with simple songs based on verses such as "Come and fill our hearts with your peace," and "O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call answer me." The church is filled with candlelight and the singing is accompanied by piano, guitar and other instruments. All are invited to experience this unique and restful way to worship. For information, please call the church office at 229-8811. Christ Church Episcopal is located at the corner of Rt. 7 and Maple Ave. and is air conditioned.

—Rev. Annie Ryder

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### ASHLEY FALLS

#### **Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational)**

355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442.

Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

#### **Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)**

1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

### GREAT BARRINGTON

#### **Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)**

North Street (413) 528-4197

Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

#### **Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**

270 State Road (413) 528-6378

Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study.

Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

#### **Trinity Lutheran**

198 Main Street

(413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9am Sunday Worship. Rev. Steve Edmiston

#### **Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire**

Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street (413) 528-4850;

home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

### SHEFFIELD

#### **Christ Church (Episcopal)**

180 Main Street (413) 229-8811

Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder.

#### **Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses**

Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

#### **Faith Baptist**

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am

Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

#### **Old Parish (Congregational)**

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Interim Pastor: Frances Ruthven; Sunday School, 10am

#### **Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)**

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am

Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

#### **Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)**

1970 N. Main Street, [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org), (413) 528-2911. [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org).

10:45am Sunday Morning Worship. 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Tuesdays: Group

Prayer Time 7pm. Interim Pastor: George Karl, Jr.

**CARLSON PROPANE**  
Division Of Carlson Heating & Air Conditioning  
HEATING SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY FOR OVER 20 YEARS  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION  
AUTOMATIC DELIVERY  
HEAT • HOT WATER • GENERATOR  
COOKING • POOL HEATER  
(413) 229-3328 Or (800) 542-2422  
79 Pike Rd Sheffield

24 HOUR  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICE

VISA  
MasterCard  
Discover  
ATM



## WOMEN'S DAY AT THE LIBRARY

The Bushnell-Sage Library, the Bookloft and The Women's Times in Great Barrington are co-sponsoring an author event with local author Susan Dworkin and Boston-based editors Karen Propp and Jean Trounstein. These acclaimed writers will be at the Library Sat., July 8, at 2pm, reading from and signing copies of the new book *Why I'm Still Married: Women Write Their Hearts Out on Love, Loss, Sex, and Who Does the Dishes*, published by Hudson Street Press.

The book brings together 24 women writers to capture the humor, anger, joy, loss, hope, frustration and friendship that mark lifelong commitment. In one essay, Dworkin describes her husband after his stroke. Julia Alvarez writes on step-parenting with an almost too perfect husband. Susan Cheever's essay is on the comforting sense that "there is someone else on this earth who shares the texture of your life." Helen Fremont reflects on her lesbian marriage under Massachusetts law. Also included in the book are essays by Erica Jong, Marge Piercy and ZZ Packer.

Dworkin was a longtime contributing editor of *Ms. Magazine*. She is the author of *Miss America, 1945: Bess Myerson and the Year That Changed Our Lives*, as well as *Stolen Goods*, a novel, the Peabody Award-winning TV documentary *She's Nobody's Baby: American Women in the 20th Century*, and numerous plays. She lives in the Berkshires.

Karen Propp is the author of two

memoirs: *In Sickness & In Health: A Love Story* and *The Pregnancy Project: Encounters With Reproductive Therapy*. Her essays, poetry and reviews have appeared in *The Women's Review of Books*, *Lilith* and *Ploughshares*, and she has won several grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She lives in Cambridge with her husband and son.

Jean Trounstein published *Shakespeare Behind Bars: The Power of Drama in a Women's Prison* based on her award-winning work directing plays

## MORE LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to Bill and the Friends! A new Library sign now graces the entrance to the Library driveway. Designed by artist Bill Connell and paid for by the Friends of the Library, the sign is much more visible from Route 7 than the old one.

Two new automatic doors for the disabled have been installed at the main entrance (they are also useful for other patrons juggling far too many books to pull or push the doors open). The book drop has been repainted and relocated so that drivers may now drop off books without having to leave their vehicles.

Thanks to the hard work of Tom Ingersoll and his team, the gazebo has been moved from the back to the front of the Library, where it not only looks splendid but should be a less of a target for vandals. Two community service workers with carpentry skills have replaced a large number of the

THE BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY (JUST OFF ROUTE 7 IN SHEFFIELD) 413-229-7004	
HOURS	
Tuesday-Thursday	10-5
Friday	10-8
Saturday	10-5
Sunday	2-5
Monday	Closed

behind bars. She has been featured on NPR and has written for *The Boston Globe* and *Working Woman* magazines. She and her husband live in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

For more information, call The Bookloft at 528-1521, The Women's Times at 528-5303 or the Library at 229-7004.

broken spindles and the rest should be fixed soon.

Work has begun on converting the grassy half bowl shaped depression just outside the basement program room into an attractive amphitheatre. This will be used for all fresco amateur stage productions, lectures, book talks and other events. Again, our thanks to Tom – this time for his creative and functional design for this area.

The Friends of the Library plan to purchase a new bike rack to be installed in the front of the building.

## COMMUNITY YOUTH ASSIST AT LIBRARY

The Library wants to thank the sizable number of community service workers who have been helping out at the Library. Under a program managed by the Juvenile Court in Great Barrington and the Sheffield Police Department, eligible young people who have run afoul of the law agree to do community service instead of suffering detention or other penalties (among other benefits, they avoid the stain of a criminal record). Police Chief Jim McGarry and Officer Susan Rathbun play important

roles in the program.

The Library has been making good use of these community service workers for about five years. They perform tasks as varied as moving library materials and other heavy objects, tearing up books and cartons for recycling, assembling shelves, assisting with Library programs and fixing the gazebo (see above). They have been enormously helpful to the Library and we want them to know that we are grateful for their hard work.

## SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The children's summer reading program will start on July 1 and end on August 4.

### Story times and dates

Ages three and up: Tues. at 10:30  
Grandchildren: Wed. at 10:30  
Infants/toddlers: Thurs. at 10:30

### Special event

David Bates, Storyteller on July 17 at 12:30

### Library Camp

July 17 to July 21 from 12 noon to 3 pm—Free!

Free drawings for prizes, scavenger hunts and more each week in July!

For more information call Children's Librarian June Wolfe at 229-7004 Ext. 103



## RECOMMENDED READING

*Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib* by Seymour M. Hersh (Harper Perennial, 2004). Hersh, who has been described as “the greatest muckraker of all time” (in the very best sense of that term), is a reporter for the New Yorker and the author of seven other books. He is the journalist who broke the news of both the My Lai massacre in Vietnam in 1969 (for which he received a Pulitzer Prize) and the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, in addition to dozens of other incidents involving the White House, Pentagon, Congress, armed forces and intelligence agencies.

In writing *Chain of Command*, Hersh set out to answer the following questions: “How did eight or nine neoconservatives who believed that a war in Iraq was the answer to international terrorism get their way? How did they redirect the government and rearrange long standing American priorities and policies with so much ease? How did they overcome the bureaucracy, intimidate the press, mislead the Congress, and dominate the military? Is our democracy that fragile?”

The author has not been intimidated in the slightest. For years a journalistic thorn in the side of the U.S. military, government and intelligence services, in this book Hersh is harshest on the current administration and makes a mockery of its attempts to justify or cover up their actions. In doing so, he frequently makes them look not only inept, negligent, or shortsighted but also hypocritical, misleading, or arrogant. He has been called “the closest thing American journalism has to a terrorist” by Richard Pearle (the former head of the Defense Policy Board who retired under a cloud in part because of Hersh’s relentless reporting), threatened with horsewhippings and libel suits and has the distinction of having provoked President Bush into calling him a liar. He gives as good as he gets, once having described Henry Kissinger as a “war criminal.”

Much of Hersh’s success as an investigative journalist is attributable to the astonishing depth and breadth of his sources and his ability to get them to discuss top secret events and documents. Their willingness to open up seems to be due in large part to their respect for his expert knowledge of—as well as his own

respect and affection for—our military and intelligence agencies and the challenges they face. At one point, in the book he describes the military as “...one of the most idealistic societies we have”. Sources may cringe when he calls but they also trust him to be fair and “get the story right.” While, not surprisingly, few of his contacts speak for attribution—this has led some of his critics to challenge the accuracy of his reporting—he has an enviable record of being proven to be correct.

One of the more intriguing and disturbing themes of this book is the deep gulf between the civilian management of the Pentagon and senior military officers. The book describes Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his colleagues as contemptuous of the latter, ridiculing their squeamishness about torture, targeted assassinations, “collateral damage” (killing innocent civilians) as well as their reluctance to embark on operations without adequate planning, adequate force and trustworthy information.

In turn, Hersh says the military chiefs resent the Pentagon’s unwarranted interference in military matters (the book describes Rumsfeld as a master micromanager with a forcefully expressed opinion on virtually every subject), challenging their military judgments and ignoring or questioning their advice on tactics and strategy. Other complaints include a perceived inability on the part of the Defense Department to accept and act upon unwelcome news (like the beginning of the insurgency in Iraq) and a related tendency to proceed on the basis of the most optimistic scenarios while discounting the worst case.

Hersh admits that he hasn’t been able to provide satisfactory answers to any of the questions listed above. But he has made a valiant effort and gone a long way down the road towards his goal.

Hersh is not as partisan as the above might suggest. He is not so much anti-Bush and anti-right as anti-ideologue, anti-incompetence and pro-truth and transparency. And, as demonstrated by his 1998 book *The Dark Side of Camelot*, which rakes up much of the muck of the Kenedy administration, he can be equally contemptuous when lambasting Democrats and the left wing. In any event, this is a well-written, insightful and thought-provoking book. —Peter Rowntree

## PRINCESS PENELOPE HOLDS COURT

On May 21, author Todd Mack and illustrator Julia Gran offered a reading of their most recent book at the Library. The sizeable turnout of children and other aficionados of children’s literature were treated to a recitation of *Princess Penelope Takes Charge!*, the sequel to the very popular *Princess Penelope*.

In the new book, the “royal” protagonist must adjust to sharing her kingdom with her little brother. The reading was punctuated by giggles and peals of laughter from those who had gone through—and were perhaps still going through—similar experiences.

Todd and Julia answered questions and signed copies of the book. The children were then invited to participate in craft making and refreshments, courtesy of the Library and the Bookloft in Great Barrington.

## DEDICATION OF PAINTING

On June 17, about 20 people attended the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library. The keynote event was the unveiling and presentation to the Library by distinguished local artist, and husband of longtime library technician Martha Green, Paul Green of his new painting (finished at 6:30 am the same day!) of “Millie’s Garden,” the recently completed renovation of the landscaped area in the front of the Library. Library Director Nancy Hahn, Friends’ President Patrick Burns and Library Trustee Susan Young praised the work and thanked Paul for his magnificent gift.

### WELCOME BACK PAULINE

We are delighted to welcome Library Technician Pauline Clarke back to the Library, if only for the summer months (she has a regular job at the school). It is a better place with her behind the circulation desk.

### SHEFFIELD FAIR

This year the Fair, on September 9 from 3-7pm, will be followed by the Kiwanis Steak Fry, which will benefit the Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department. More details to come closer to the event.



## PROFILE: ROBERT A. WEITZ

In 1989, recognizing that the business of government had become more and more complex and time consuming, Sheffield adopted a Town Administrator form of government, employing for the first time a professional manager who would manage the day-to-day business of the Town. Appointed by the Board of Selectmen, the Administrator's duties include assisting the Board of Selectmen in developing policy, ensuring it is carried out, supervising employees and other people involved in local government and generally taking responsibility for the smooth and efficient operation of the Town. The Administrator is involved in virtually all matters that are the responsibility of the Board.

Sheffield has had only two administrators. For most of those years—14, Robert A. Weitz has occupied the position. First on the ground floor, and for the last seven years on the second floor behind the Town assembly room where the Board of Selectmen meet.

Bob received his B.S. from the University of Massachusetts and his J.D. from Western New England College School of Law. Before coming to Sheffield, he was Planning Director for five years in Millbury, MA, and also a plan-



*Robert Weitz, Sheffield town administrator.*

ning consultant in such diverse areas as water resources, the development of master plans and developing capital improvement plans throughout New England. In addition, he practiced law for three years and, for six years, was a selectman in West Brookfield. He lives in Sheffield, is married and has two children, one in his junior year in college, a second graduating from high school this year.

Bob has seen a number of changes in Sheffield in his 14-plus years as town administrator. "There has been a lot more development, particularly in the last seven or eight years," he notes. And the mix of the population has changed, with more retirees, and more second homes. Part of the effect of that change is that there are fewer children and the school population has dropped. In addition, the State of Massachusetts, which considers Sheffield "wealthy" compared to other towns, sends less and less money. That creates a financial dilemma for the Town, but even more for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. State funds account for about 20 percent of the School's budget, but only 10 percent of the Town budget. With the cutback of state funds, town taxpayers must pick up the difference.

Looking back over his many years here, Bob takes particular satisfaction in the significant building renovation that has occurred during this time, the town's first zoning by-law in 1994, the development of the business park, the growth of financial reserves for the town, the new

website and the minimal amount of legal action the town has had to defend.

When Bob began as Administrator, the Bushnell Sage Library was in cramped facilities on Route 7 at its intersection with Berkshire School Road and the Police Department shared space with Town Government in Town Hall. In the reorganization, the library moved to much more spacious facilities in the former grade school, and the police relocated to the former library.

After years of planning, all five parcels of the Business Park have been filled. Two new businesses are under construction and three will begin soon.

When he arrived, the Town had a very small amount of financial reserves. Over the years Bob helped develop budgets that resulted in a fund of some \$900,000 of free cash. He believes that reserves in the vicinity of \$1 million are desirable, and points to heavy potential expenses in the years to come as the Town builds a Senior Center, buys a new fire truck, and need to relocate the highway garage, which is just across Pike Road from a major water supply of the Sheffield Water Company.

The Town website, which can be found at [www.sheffieldma.gov](http://www.sheffieldma.gov), is now operational and contains a wealth of information about town government.

When Bob thinks about special issues facing the town, he mentions his concern about providing fire coverage during daytime hours, when many of our volunteer firemen are working; the increased demand for governmental services; the re-allocation of school costs with the other five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, an interim compact that expires in 2011; and "the increased cost of everything." As an example, he notes that the price of oil has more than tripled in 10 years.

But he enjoys his job. "Sheffield is a beautiful place to live and work," he notes, "and I appreciate the volunteers and extremely dedicated and competent employees who make up this community."

—John G. Wightman



### "Money Does Grow on Trees"

Not sure how you are going to keep up with the rising cost of living? Are rising real estate taxes getting harder to pay? If you own wooded property, the answer may be as close as your trees.

R.J. Benham Forest Products specializes in harvesting trees in an environmentally sensitive manner. Our experienced crews are licensed and insured, and our diverse log markets allow us to offer you the highest prices for your standing timber.

If you are interested in a no-cost, no-obligation evaluation of your forest, give our licensed forester a call at (413) 229-2182, or stop by our log yard at 53 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA and we will be happy to arrange a site visit.



# SHEFFIELD WELCOMES NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Selectmen appointed Thomas M. Carmody to be Sheffield's new building inspector on December 15, 2005.

Tom and his wife, Patricia, a teacher in the Webatuck Central School in Amenia, NY, have lived in Sheffield since 1999. They have one grown son, Thomas Jr., who lives in Chicago, and two daughters, Colleen, 11 and Caitlin, 9, both of whom attend Mount Everett.

Tom has an extensive background in construction. He was a contractor and tradesman in Columbia County, NY, for 15 years before becoming a project manager and estimator in commercial construction. He is in the process of completing the 60 hours of course work required in order to be certified by the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulation and Standards, first as a "local inspector" and second as a "building commissioner." Much of this training requires mastering the intricacies of the Massachusetts Building Code and related regulations.

The primary responsibilities of the building inspector are to administer and enforce the building code and the town's Zoning Bylaws. The first includes reviewing applications for and issuing building permits, inspecting new construction and renovations in order to ensure that they are in compliance with the requirements of the Building Code and issuing certificates of occupancy for finished projects. This requires the building inspector to work closely with contractors. Tom will typically inspect a project five to seven times during the course of construction in order to determine whether each stage has been properly completed before the next stage begins. Timing is critical here because contractors and subcontractors work on tight schedules and cannot afford to sit around waiting for the inspector to drop by. Keeping on schedule is made more difficult by the large number of projects. Tom estimates that anywhere from 50 to 100 construction and renovation projects are underway in Sheffield at any one time.

In his role as the administrator of the Zoning Bylaws, the building inspector acts as sort of a gatekeeper for the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. As part of

his review of a building permit application, he will determine and advise the applicant whether he or she is required to obtain a special permit from the Planning Board or a variance or special permit from the ZBA. In addition, the inspector, as Sheffield's "zoning enforcement officer," is charged with identifying violations of the Zoning Bylaws and taking the steps necessary to enforce the bylaws.

Tom points out that enforcing the

---

*...a good inspector  
should have...tact, an  
even temperament,  
[and] a consistent ap-  
proach to applying the  
building regulations...*

---

bylaws should be an interesting and innovative part of his job because of the adoption at the May 1 town meeting of an amendment of the bylaws providing for a new, non-criminal complaint procedure [see Election Results on cover page]. In the past, enforcement has been sporadic and difficult due to a cumbersome legal process—indeed, according to Tom there have only been a few attempts to prosecute zoning violations. The main obstacles have been the time and expense required to do this under the existing procedure and the fact that a successful prosecution would leave the violator with a criminal record—far too harsh a punishment for a zoning violation. The failure to enforce the codes has been of growing concern to town officials and Sheffield residents, who have seen a growing number of zoning violations, particularly nonconforming signs and displays. The new by-law allows the inspector to levy fines by presenting a piece of paper similar to a traffic ticket and provides the building inspector with a much simpler, faster and less costly method of handling zoning violations.

Currently, in addition to his regular duties Tom is serving as an important member of a subcommittee formed to write a proposed amendment of the Zoning Bylaws.

According to Tom, a good inspector should have the following qualifications: tact, an even temperament, a consistent approach to applying the building regulations, persuasiveness, determination, negotiation skills, a thorough grounding in construction (including the economics of the business), patience, a good sense of what is practical and a willingness to work with contractors to find alternative ways of achieving a contractor's or owner's objectives.

Tom works 15 hours a week for Sheffield, about nine of them outdoors (the "best part of the job," he says) and the remainder in his office at Town Hall. His office hours are 8am to 12 noon on Tuesdays and 5pm to 7pm on Thursdays.

Tom likes Sheffield and his new job. He enjoys working in the town where he lives, which gives him more time to be with his family (he used to commute between Sheffield and Albany). —Peter Rowntree

## BUY LOCAL!

Our advertisers are local businesses. Let them know you read about them in the Sheffield Times.

## Formerly the Pigge Roast

with Master Roaster Scott Ryan

### & Craft Faire

Sat., August 26, 2006



American Legion hall, SHEFFIELD  
Craft Faire from 10:00 till 4:00

Dessert Contest at 3:00

Serving from 4:00 until 6:30

Roasting beef, chicken, & pork

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

Adults \$17 (\$15 pre-paid), children \$8,  
children under 8 free

Sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society  
CALL 229-2694 FOR RESERVATIONS

Dessert Bakers - join us.

Call Sheffield Historical Society  
413-229-2694



## KOPS 'N KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM

The Sheffield Police Department will hold its second annual "Kops 'n Kids" summer day program the week of July 17. The program, formerly known as D.A.R.E. camp will be held at the Sheffield Town Park and consists of a Ropes Challenge Course.

The Police Ropes Course was built about seven years ago and has been utilized every year since its conception. There are five high ropes elements and eight low ropes elements. Day by day, the students gain trust and confidence, building to the last day when they ride the 600 foot zip line. The facilitators of the course are all law enforcement officers and all trained in ropes course procedure. The Sheffield Police officers are joined by Police Officers from the Lee and Stockbridge Police Departments and Probation Officers from the Southern Berkshire District Court. There are nine officers on site every day.

On Wednesday, July 19, the Kops 'n Kids group will tour the Westover Air Force Base which has been arranged by Sgt. Michael Duma of the Air National Guard, who is also a probation officer with the Southern Berkshire Court System in Great Barrington. The group will lunch at the base and then board military transport to go out on the "flight line" for touch and go's and climbing into the cockpit of a C-5. This tour was a big hit last year with the children and adults alike.

Some of the lunches for the week are donated by area restaurants, including Manhattan Pizza in Great Barrington and Limey's Restaurant in Sheffield. The final day, the cookout is provided by The Old Mill in South Egremont. Donations of snacks and drinks come from Silk's Variety and PJ's Convenience in Sheffield and The Old Egremont Store in North Egremont.

The program is five days long, ending with a cookout and graduation ceremony on Friday afternoon which parents and friends may attend. At this time there will also be demonstrations of the high ropes, provided by the students.

The Kops 'n Kids program is financed completely from donations. There is no cost to the participants. Forty spaces for

students are allocated at the camp along with 12 mentor positions. The mentors are older students who assist the Officers with running the camp and also act as good examples for the students. This year's Kops 'n Kids week is almost full as this issue went to press, but interested parties may call the Police Department to see if there are spots left for students. There are no mentoring positions available. —Officer Sherry Johnson

## ASSESSORS & COLLECTORS

**Chapter 61A and 61B annual application deadline.** Applications are due on or before Oct. 1. Sorry, no exceptions. Questions? Call 229-7001.

**Tax bills.** New preliminary real-estate tax bills for Fiscal Year 2007 went out at the end of June for the Aug. 1 payment. A second notice will be sent for the November payment. Questions? Call 229-7008.

### SHEFFIELD'S TOWN WEB SITE

[www.sheffieldma.gov](http://www.sheffieldma.gov)  
or  
[www.townofsheffield.com](http://www.townofsheffield.com)

## RECYCLING

Sheffield residents can recycle old oil-based paint and motor oil on several dates this summer:

Wed., July 5, 4:30-6:30pm, and Wed., August 9, 4:30-6:30pm at the Lenox Department of Public Works, 275 Main St., across from MassHighway office.

Wed., July 26, 4-6:30pm and Sat., Sept. 9, 9-11:30am at the Great Barrington Transfer Station, Route 7, across from Monument Mountain High School.

A comprehensive household hazardous waste collection, where oil and oil-based paints along with substances such as insecticides, weed killers, oven cleaner, photo chemicals, mercury thermometers and rechargeable batteries, will be held Sat., July 22, 9am-noon, at the Lee Department of Public Works, 45 Railroad Street, near the post office and gazebo. Farmers can bring agricultural pesticides to this collection for no charge (pre-registration mandatory).

To participate, pre-register with the Center for Environmental Technology at 1-800-238-1221 ext 14 or 25, or e-mail [jamiiec@cetonline.org](mailto:jamiiec@cetonline.org).

Alkaline batteries and latex paint are not accepted at these collections; they can be disposed of in household trash.

## SHEFFIELD FIRE DEPT. FIRE LOG

—Chief Rick Boardman

### April

- 18 Smoke in building. Alarm time, 11:45 a.m. In service, 12:15 a.m.
- 18 Electrical fire. Alarm time, 9:45 p.m. In service, 10:07 p.m.
- 19 Brush fire. Alarm time, 3:05 p.m. In service, 3:35 p.m.
- 21 Mutual aid to Egremont fire. Alarm time, 8:38 a.m. In service, 10:18 a.m.
- 23 Stove fire. Alarm time, 2:56 p.m. In service, 3:34 p.m.
- 28 Burnt food 795 Ranapo Rd. Alarm Time, 6:25 p.m. In service, 6:43 p.m.
- 30 Grass fire. Alarm time, 3:38 p.m. In service, 4:35 p.m.

### May

- 5 Alarm 216 S. Main St. Alarm time, 6:35 a.m. In service, 6:57 a.m.
- 8 Brush fire. Alarm time, 11:25 a.m. In service, 12:24 p.m.
- 9 Alarm Kolburn School. Alarm time, 7:30 p.m. In service, 7:50 p.m.
- 18 Alarm 282 E. Main St. Alarm time, 6:01 p.m. In service, 6:40 p.m.
- 21 Alarm 245 N. Under Mt. Rd. Alarm time, 7:58 p.m. In service, 8:35 p.m.
- 22 Alarm Mt. Everett. Alarm time, 3:51 p.m. In service, 4:01 p.m.



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Commission members in flux.** The composition of the Sheffield Conservation Commission, currently a five-person board appointed by the Board of Selectmen, is going through some changes. The Commission, which serves as steward of the town forest and enforces the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Wetlands Protection Act, is looking for new members because it has had trouble achieving quorums at its bimonthly meetings due to health and schedule issues. In the meantime, Commission members have agreed to serve until new members can be found to take their place. The Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursday at Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

A request by the Commission to appoint alternates was approved at last year's Town Meeting but has not yet been approved by the state (state approval is needed because there is no provision in state law for alternates on Conservation Commissions, so Sheffield is petitioning the state Legislature to create this provision locally under its Home Rule authority). In the interim, the Commission has asked the Board of Selectmen to enlarge the Commission to six or seven members (state law already permits Conservation Commissions to have seven members). People interested in serving on the Commission should contact the Board of Selectmen.

June Wolfe and Jaime Pomeroy serve as co-chairs of the Commission. Wolfe, a farmer, is chair during the winter months, and Pomeroy, who works in the ski industry, is chair during the summer months. Questions about procedure or questionable developments can be directed to her at 229-2277 through October. Additional members of the Commission are Dorothy Billings, Scott Smith and Jeff Waingrow.

**Commission's role in Sheffield.** With land rich in wetlands, bogs, ponds, streams and rivers, there's plenty of work for the Commission in Sheffield. It heard some 30 cases in 2005. Massachusetts wetlands regulations require that any construction or excavation within 200 feet of a perennial stream or 100 feet of standing wetlands be done with the approval of the Commission. A "Request for Determination," in which the Commission figures out whether wetlands regulations apply to a project, costs \$75.

If the Commission decides that they do, and the steps proposed under the Request are not sufficient to protect the resources, the next step is a "Notice of Intent." Fees for this step depend on the project and may require a survey by an engineer and entail conditions set by the Conservation Commission to avoid damaging wetlands. Sheffield's wetlands support a wide diversity of plants and animals, some of them rare and endangered species. Wetlands also act as sponges during floods which helps to minimize damage to fields, homes and businesses.

So far in 2006, the Commission has issued seven "cease and desist" orders for projects being conducted without following the rules. Ultimately, the state Department of Environmental Protec-

tion enforces the wetlands regulations, via fines or, in extreme cases, requiring the damaged area to be restored to original conditions.

For downloadable forms and more information on Massachusetts wetlands regulations, go to [www.mass.gov/dep/water/](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/).

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Town Board openings:

- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission
  - Board of Health
  - Cable Television Committee
  - Conservation Commission
- For information call 229-2335.

## SHEFFIELD TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Sporting Licenses.** Hunting/Fishing & Sporting licenses and stamps are available during regular business hours. Antlerless Deer (or Doe) permit applications need to be submitted by July 16th.

**Dog Licenses.** 2006 dog licenses are now available. If you reside in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year or you have a dog six months of age or older, that dog is required to be licensed. The cost is \$4 for a spayed/neutered dog, \$10 for intact dogs.

**Census.** If you have not responded to your census form please do so as soon as possible.

**Voter Registration.** The Town Clerk's office is open from 9am-4pm weekdays for voter registration. I would encourage college students to look into applying for absentee ballot applications

before going away to school.

There will be a State Primary on Tuesday, September 19th. The deadline to register to vote will be August 30th. The State Election will be on Tuesday, November 7th. The deadline to register to vote will be on October 18th.

If you have questions pertaining to any of these items please call the Town Clerk's office at 229-8752 during regular business hours.

**KWIK  
PRINT  
INCORPORATED**

*From while-you-wait duplicating  
to web offset printing...*

Color Copies • Fax Services • Laminating  
Photocopies • Resumes • Spiral Binding

Books • Brochures • Business Cards  
Envelopes • Flyers • Letterheads • Menus  
Newspapers • Newsletters  
NCR/Carbonless Forms  
Posters • Programs • Tickets  
Wedding Invitations

Typesetting/Graphic Design  
Mac and PC Compatible  
Digital Place Maker • Barcoded Mailing Services

**COLOR COPIES**

413/528-2885 Fax: 413/528-9220  
35 Bridge St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30 Sat. 8:30-12:00

## PAID POSITION AVAILABLE

**Board Clerk**—part-time paid position. The Town is seeking applicants to provide clerical services to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The clerk will prepare board meeting agendas; keep records; attend meetings; take and transcribe minutes of meetings; prepare correspondence; provide clerical support to the boards. Send applications to Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, P.O. Box 325, Sheffield, MA 01257. (413) 229-2335.



## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

3/6—Planning Board Chair Rene Wood reported on the status of the three tasks of the Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant. Task one consists of a zoning by-law review and revision subcommittee, who are working on a Uses Table to help make the by-laws consistent, up-to-date with state and federal law, and easier to understand.

Task two is to recruit, staff, train, and advise members of the town's Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC). Selectman Hannum interjected that the three items the committee are most interested in studying are Affordable Housing, Open Space & Recreation Plan, and Adoption of Community Preservation Act.

Task three's objective is to improve zoning protections for Sheffield's water supply sources; this subcommittee is reviewing the current Water Supply Protection District by-laws, revised Zone II delineation, sample by-laws from Mass Dept of Environmental Protection, and previous documents and studies done for the Sheffield Water Company. The subcommittee is currently working through proposed draft recommendations and will forward revised by-laws to the Planning Board for review and action. *[Note: Subsequently approved at Town Meeting]*

In addition to the above three tasks, Rene Wood provided a working map and discussed an Adult Entertainment Overlay District Zoning By-Law that the Planning Board will submit to the town for vote at the Town Meeting. Wood stated that this is a proactive measure to limit Adult Entertainment to a specific district. Available land for Adult Entertainment would total 0.42% of entire town's acreage. *[Note: Subsequently approved at Town Meeting]*

Jim Larkin presented a draft warrant article to establish an Agricultural Commission and answered questions. A commission is in keeping with last year's Right To Farm by-law and the Master Plan.

At the recommendation of Chief McGarry, Senior Officer Robert Ullrich, with 26 years of experience, was unani-

mously appointed to the position of Sergeant.

Selectman Hannum's motion to sign a letter indicating the town's intention to participate in the fiscal year 2007 Household Hazardous Waste Collection carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from Robert and Martha Kilmer, requesting tuition funds for their sons Robbie and Harrison to attend Housatonic Valley Regional High School for the 06/07 school year. After reviewing the school's achievements in regards to vocational [agricultural] education, their request was approved.

Scott Larson of True North Events & Catering of Boothbay Harbor, ME, was issued a one-day wine and beer permit for the Sheffield Plastics Picnic at the Town Park on August 5, 2006.

Chairman of the Finance Committee David Steindler provided an update for the Board regarding the School Budget. The Finance Committee will invite the School Committee and Selectmen to its next meeting. Steindler expressed concern about the school administration adding 100 percent state aid (\$46,000 Chapter 70 and \$114,000 Transportation Aid) to the school budget after it had been voted on by the towns. Schools can use the Transportation Aid, but not the Chapter 70. The Highway Dept. will need a transfer to the reserve fund due to four severe storm washouts that damaged roads. Steindler indicated that the Board might want to consider an override article to the Town Meeting.

The Board went into Executive Session for collective bargaining discussion.

3/20—Selectman issued a curb permit to Melissa Noe for her property on Hullett Hill Rd. provided that an apron is completed prior to construction of the main structure on the property.

Tuition funds were granted to Rick and Sandy Boardman for their two daughters' vocational education at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for the 06/07 school year.

Rep. Smitty Pignatelli requested input relative to the upcoming State

House decision as to whether or not to allow the installation of slot machines at racetracks in Massachusetts. The letter stated that such installation could put state lottery funds at risk, which could impact local aid. The Board inquired as to what would happen to slot machine monies.

At the request of Sandra Martin (of Fairview Hospital) who was representing the Southern Berkshire Emergency Planning Committee, the Board voted to approve the Southern Berkshire Emergency Planning Committee Integrated Hazardous Material Incident Plan. It was noted that to comply with adoption of the National Incident Management System each town must have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan..

Barbara Davidson, Manager of the Sheffield Farmers' Market, announced the year's season will begin Mother's Day weekend and end Columbus Day weekend. Because business traditionally has been slow after 6:30pm, instead of holding hours on Fridays from 4-7pm, they would like to change the hours of operation to 3:30pm to 6:30pm. The Board advised that at this time, it hesitates to grant permission to allow an earlier starting hour because parking at the Town Hall is limited and could pose a conflict between Town Hall customers and Farmer's Market vendors. The topic will be revisited after the Fuller Barn is removed. In the meantime Davidson will meet with the Police Department and businesses in the Village Green to ask for their input relative to parking and hours. The Board also inquired about contact with the Food Safety inspector.

David Smith announced preliminary information about the annual Sheffield Celebration (scheduled for Sep 9 from 2-7pm). Selectman expressed praise of the event. Smith will return to review plans for closing the green after meeting with the Police Chief.

The Board reviewed a letter from the National Grid notifying the Town of Mass Electric's scheduled vegetation



management treatments and routine maintenance plans scheduled to begin April 24th. It was agreed that the notice be posted at the Library and with the Town Clerk, and that the Assessors and Dick Kirchner be asked to review the associated map of wells in case new homes have been built within the 100-foot of right-of-way.

Town Administrator Weitz reported on the March 10th bid opening for the 2000 Crown Victoria Ford (former Police Cruiser). Grace Quality submitted the highest bid at \$2,648. The Board voted to keep the cruiser for internal use.

The Board will send the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Agency a letter indicating that they want to go on record to provide comment that any Environmental Impact Review of the Barrington Fairgrounds project should include traffic and environmental impacts affecting the Town of Sheffield.

Bob Weitz advised that Beverly Gilbert had given notice and he will begin recruiting for a new Administrative Assistant to the Board and Town Administrator.

Pauline Schumann of the Council on Aging updated the Board about the proposed Senior Center. She has been in contact with Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Building Inspector. At the Board's recommendation, she will have the Council on Aging talk with the neighbors, and the Police Chief. She also brought up consideration of payment of utilities for renters and having a perc test done.

Anna James spoke about affordable housing and inquired if in accordance with Mass General Laws chapter 40B, it is legal to build on a lot with 40 feet of frontage.

4/3 – The Board voted not to put a Proposition 2½ override on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, and to delete a \$100 Planning Board stipend.

4/18—The Annual Town Meeting Warrant was approved, following a

brief discussion of funding amounts associated with Radar and the Police Dept. phone system.

Jerry Buckley of Adelphia Cable spoke about the Board's recent vote to increase Sheffield's public access cable fees to 5%. In order for this change to occur, the contract between Sheffield and Adelphia must first be amended. He expects to give the Board paperwork within a month. Since increases cannot be retroactive Adelphia will advise the town on a new effective date. At the Board's request, he will check into the possibility of paying CTSB quarterly.

The Fire Department's special permit to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Railroad Barn Replacement Project was signed.

The Board approved the Sheffield and Ashley Falls Memorial Day Parade Permits.

The Board received correspondence from TEC Associates Consulting Engineers outlining the Housatonic Railroad Company 2006 Vegetation Control Program, in which three herbicide applications are scheduled to take place; the first June 5-16, and two touch-up applications September 4-15. The Board agreed to have the associated Yearly Operational Plan available at the Town Clerk's office and to post it at the Ashley Falls Post Office.

The Board approved a one-day All Alcoholic Beverage Permit for Berkshire School's Alumni Weekend, June 8-10.

Rose Cronk was appointed substitute Transfer Station employee.

Selectmen Hannum praised the Library's new stairwell construction project and Officer Rathbun's Security Training of Library staff.

Bob Weitz indicated that before alternates can be appointed to the Conservation Commission, the state Legislature must first approve the Town's Home Rule Petition to create the positions. Weitz will contact the State Representative to request expediting.

Weitz will provide the Board with a list of Town Committee and Board members up for re-appointment.

Selectman Hannum reported that several residents had requested additional financial information beyond the scope of what is listed in the Town Report. The Board agreed to make a Finance Committee packet available to

citizens at the library and Town Clerk's office, and noted that anyone with questions about the packet should contact the Board's office.

This meeting marked the last regular board meeting for Chairman Janet Stanton. All expressed mutual appreciation for each other's efforts and dedication throughout their time working together.

Selectmen Macy asked that the Highway Dept. provide the Board with daily work lists.

Chairman Stanton expressed her appreciation to the Town Hall workers for their support over the last 12 years and for helping people feel comfortable coming to Town Hall with concerns.

The Board went into Executive Session for collective bargaining discussion.

4/26—The Board, along with Town Administrator Weitz, interviewed candidates for the Administrative Assistant opening in the Selectman's office. Three interviews had previously been conducted. Weitz will do reference checks on the most qualified candidates, Julie Bunce and Rhonda LaBombard, after which the Board will meet again to select one of the two.

5/1 – Town Administrator Weitz updated the Board that reference checks for Julie Bunce and Rhonda LaBombard were still in progress. The Board agreed to meet on May 4 to review the additional information and vote on their selection.

5/4—Town Administrator Weitz reported on and discussed the reference checks for Julie Bunce and Rhonda LaBombard, the two finalists for administrative assistant. After a discussion of the strengths of each candidate, Rhonda LaBombard was selected for the position.

Weitz reported on the estimates received from Okerstrom-Lang for the Village Green Proposal. The current estimate is \$65,000. The original contract for the work was \$37,000 eight years ago. Weitz will discuss other options for completing the work with Mass Highway. (*Update: Foresight Engineering has since contracted to do it for \$9,300.*)

In response to an inquiry from Mass Highway, the Board agreed that the Town did still want inset centerline reflectors on Berkshire School Rd.



## PLANNING BOARD UPDATE

May and June were busy months for the Planning Board, but the Board began the period with gratitude to town voters for adopting four zoning by-law warrant articles at the May 1st town meeting. **THANK YOU!**

Changes in Planning Board membership. At its May 2nd meeting, the Board toasted and celebrated the many years of incredibly dedicated service and commitment provided by Dan Moulton and Doc Nourse, both of whom were leaving the board.

During his three years on the board, Dan, in addition to normal Board responsibilities, was secretary during two extremely busy years, which saw countless meetings on the draft master plan, warrant articles and an explosion of Board business, including 10 special permit applications in 2005. As secretary Dan took, corrected as needed, and filed the minutes, all the Form A and Special Permit paperwork, took care of all the required newspaper notices and so much more. Dan just "got it done" in his competent and cheerful manner. The Board thanks him for his incredible commitment and will miss him greatly.

Doc, who has retired several times, re-joined the board from his Alternate Member status, to fill out the term of John Downie, who retired in August 2005. Doc provided the insights, dedication and knowledge of town zoning by-laws and MA zoning laws that have always made Doc's contribution one of a kind. He remains committed to planning endeavors as he serves on the Zoning By-Law Review subcommittee and will continue to do so. The Board also thanked Bob Pasqualina, who had served as its Alternate Member, for his service.

Following town elections, which saw two new members elected to the Board—Anthony "Tony" Gulotta and Christopher "Chris" Tomich—the Board elected its officers for the upcoming year: Chairman: Rene Wood; Vice-Chairman: Bart Elsbach, Secretary: Anthony Gulotta and Treasurer: Fred Gordon. As delegates to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Del-

egate: Christopher Tomich and Alternate Delegate; Rene Wood. However, as the board accepted the resignation of Fred Gordon, who is leaving at the end of July after having served more than 8 years, the Board voted a change in its officers—Secretary: Christopher Tomich, Treasurer: Anthony Gulotta, Delegate to BRPC: Rene Wood, with the Alternate Delegate position unfilled at this time—to fill the Treasurer position being vacated.

**During May and June business-wise, the Board:**

- Conducted and concluded a special permit hearing on the application of Susan and Robert Butler seeking an extension of the special permit they were granted in 2004. The Board later decided that an extension was in fact not needed as the terms of a special permit granted under the Alternative Lot Dimensions provision (Article 5.1.c) were in fact met when the appropriate documents were filed with the Registry of Deeds.
- Provided guidance to: Steve Seward on signage and a special permit questions; Mike Koldis and others on Berkshire Lake Estates questions; June and Jim Wolfe and the Sheffield Land Trust regarding a common driveway for two potential lots to be divided from property under purchase discussion; Nora Hayes on whether dog day care was a use allowed by special permit in the Commercial District; Gail Ullman on whether a senior residence/"boarding house" was a use allowed by special permit in the Village Center District; Jim Larkin and the Sheffield Land Trust regarding Form A and a special permit for alternative lot dimension to create a building lot.
- Endorsed Form A for Judith Blak; Scott Seeger; Jim and Margaret Larkin, Ron Durning, John and Judith Ullrich, Robert Ullrich Realty Trust and received an extension on the Form A for Jonathan Ingham and Christopher and Tyler I. Weld

to allow a site visit.

- Accepted a Special Permit application from Jim and Margaret Larkin to create a building lot under the Alternative Lot Dimensions by-law provision. No date for the hearing was set.
- Engaged Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to update the Sheffield Zoning Map in light of the warrant articles approved at town meeting. The Board will fund this through a Smart Growth grant.
- Received a progress report on the Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) and its two subcommittees. Under its responsibilities. The Planning Board, with the Board of Selectmen, is reviewing this report and will provide feedback.
- Completed its final review of the Master Plan Summary of Recommendations document designed by Eric Shamie, which should be available in Town Hall and the Bushnell Sage Library by early July.
- Requested, and received, a transfer of funds from the Town's Reserve Account to cover a shortfall in the board's FY 2006 budget, due to unanticipated advertising costs associated with an unanticipated number of special permits and other required legal notifications.
- Endorsed Don Ward as the Planning Board Alternate Member for Special Permit hearings and forwarded this to the Select Board for its action.

Board meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, except that the 1st meeting in July will be held on Thursday, July 6th due to the legal holiday on July 4th. Meetings are in the 1st floor conference room, Town Hall. All meetings are posted and open to the public. All are welcome. —Rene Wood

### BUY LOCAL!

Our advertisers are local businesses. Let them know you read about them in the Sheffield Times.



# SMART GROWTH PLANNING BOARD GRANT UPDATE

Work on the Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant received by the town and administered by the Planning Board for fiscal year 2006 is moving forward on several issues.

The Zoning By-Law Revision subcommittee meets weekly to review and update the town's current zoning by-laws. The subcommittee's work is now focused on remaining zoning and the remainder of the town's by-laws, as it has nearly completed its work on a Table of Use Regulations, which will, with town voter's approval, replace pages of text with an easy to use and understand grid of what uses, in each of the town's uses, are permitted by right or by special permit in each of the town's districts.

The subcommittee continues to work extremely well together and makes progress because each of the subcommittee members brings a unique perspective to the task, all are respectful of differing views and discussion is open and spirited, and free. Tom Matuszko, of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is the task's consultant. His organizational skills and style commitment have helped keep the tedious and time-consuming nature of the review focused and on track. When the subcommittee work will complete its work, it will be presented to the Planning Board for its review and action.

The Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) and its two subcommittees continue to make progress. They gave a status report to update the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board in June. One subcommittee is focused on updating and completing the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan; the second subcommittee is focused on affordable housing. (The Sheffield Times had a feature article on the IAC's work in its May/June issue. See also "Volunteers Wanted" on page 15.)

While the Sheffield Wellhead Protection Committee had completed its grant task of reviewing and updating the town's Water Supply Protection District by-laws when it forwarded its work to the Planning Board before Town Meeting, committee members continued to work for its approval by

town voters. They saw all their hard work rewarded when voters overwhelming adopted it at Town Meeting by voters on May 1st. Later in May, voters at Great Barrington's Town Meeting also approved a water protection by-law, which will provide protection to Sheffield Water Company's Zone II areas in Great Barrington.

A new Smart Growth Grant opportunity has been announced for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2006. The Board of Selectmen approved pursuing the grant, asked BRPC to apply for the grant on the town's behalf and be the grant's administrator and endorsed Rene Wood as the town's grant project manager, should the grant be awarded.

The \$30,000 grant application will focus on an infill analysis of the Sheffield Village Center District. The Planning Board endorsed the application. The grant's focus is consistent with the Master Plan recommendations and central to the town's understanding of the infill potential of the Sheffield Village Center District.

—Rene Wood

The Sheffield Times is an inexpensive way to reach Sheffield customers. Contact Tara White at 229-7754 for information on how to advertise.

## NOTICE

### Want to get involved in Town? The Planning Board needs someone committed to making Ashley Falls and Sheffield a better place to

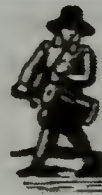
One of our members is leaving effective July 31st. We need an interim replacement until May 2007, when town elections are held. This is a good way to see what it is all about.

Requirements: interest in our town; willingness to commit time & energy to two monthly meetings and some time outside of meetings; ability to work with

others; and willingness to serve the public in a non-paid position.

If interested: leave a letter or note of interest in the Planning Board's mail box, 2nd floor Town Hall or mail same to: Planning Board, Box 325, Sheffield, 01257 by July 14th and attend the July 18th meeting beginning at 7:30PM. If you have questions: please call Fred Gordon, 229-2106.

THE  
SHEFFIELD  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
PRESENTS  
2nd BIENNIAL



### SILENT AUCTION & TAG SALE

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2006

7:30-9am Early Bird Shopping \$10

9-4 Tag Sale; 7:30-3pm Silent Auction

House Bidder will execute your bid.

American Legion Hall, Sheffield  
(corner Rte. 7 & Cook Rd.)

Lunch Available

ALL ITEMS SPECIALLY DONATED  
FOR THIS SALE

To Donate,

call 229-8668 or 229-2694 for pickup or leave donations on back porch of the Society's headquarters (next to the Mobil station).

Soothe Your Troubles Away  
Plant High-Quality Organic Herbs



Come Visit!

Opening Saturday, May 6  
"Free Recipe"

979 Ashley Falls Road  
Ashley Falls, MA 01222 413-229-8179

Hours: Daily 9am-5pm; Sheffield Farmer's Market: Friday, 3:30-6:30  
Directions: 2.1 miles South on 7A  
Herb Barn & Gallery on right



## ART LEAGUE ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Housatonic Valley Art League—formerly the Sheffield Art League—announced winners of its 31st annual High School Scholarship Competition/Art Show in May. Nineteen high school seniors from eight regional high schools participated. Each artist was a senior in good academic standing and planning to major in art at a professional art school or college. The works were on display at the Welles Gallery in Lenox in May.

The judges for the competition were art league members Marion Grant, curator/artist, and Leo Mazzeo, publicity chair/artist, with special guest judge, Professor Lisa Yetz, artist/sculptor, and chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Berkshire Community College.

This year the judges broke with tradition and awarded three first prizes of \$850 to each winner, stating that the works were equally excellent and met all criteria. The awards were presented by Carol Sica, vice-president and scholarship chair of the art league.

The recipients were Jessica Le Jeune of Webutuck Central High School, Amenia, NY; Emily Goldfarb, Monument Mountain Regional High School; and Hannah Wohl from Lenox Memorial High School.

The judges also awarded five honorable mentions to James Allison and Weston Kessler, of Taconic High School; Miranda Miller and Caroline Carlisle of Lenox Memorial High School; and Kai-Curry Lindahl of Berkshire School. Each honorable mention artist received a gift certificate for art supplies from JWS Art Supplies in Great Barrington, a long time supporter of the competition.

Also participating were Alyson Finelli, Webutuck; Jamie Belford, Caitlin Livey and Anna Rennie, Taconic; Carly Beery and Candus Young, Wahconah High School; Sarah Brown, St. Joseph Central; Cailin Rocco, Mt. Everett High School; Anita Lu, Berkshire School, Emma Winkles, Lenox Memorial; and Georgia Sparaco, Monument

Mountain.

Each of the nineteen artists received a copy of *Art and The River Views and Visions of the Housatonic*, published in 2004 as part of the Sheffield Art League's Housatonic River Summer.

John Lundquist and Susan Godwin, art league member/artists, graciously added excitement to the event by offering to display the works of the scholarship winners in the Godwin-Lundquist Gallery in Great Barrington.

The Sheffield Art League changed its name to the Housatonic Valley Art League this year to better reflect the scope and aims of its membership.

—Carol Sica

## SPILL THE BEANS COFFEE SHOP

There's a welcome new addition to Sheffield's business community, near the center of town at the corner of Route 7 and Maple Avenue. Andrea Eichstedt's new coffee shop, Spill the Beans Café, has been open for business since December 5.

"I had always wanted to open a restaurant or a coffee shop," says Andrea. "So when the space became available I called the owner." The site had formerly been the home of Gretchen's Hair Salon, and became available after its proprietor passed away.

The location is ideal for Andrea, since she owns the Reflections clothing store next door. "We did renovations for a year," says Andrea. The electrical system was brought up to code and the old fluorescent lighting was replaced by track lighting. Her sister Noreen added a decorator's touch, painting the rooms in warm shades of coffee brown and sage. They chose comfortable furniture for the inside rooms and the airy, glassed-in front porch, and hung eye-catching art on the walls. One of the plans in the works is to convert the glass porch to a screened-in porch for the summer. A popular feature inside is the free wireless internet connection for anyone who has a laptop to bring over.

Spill the Beans is a family affair. In addition to Noreen's decorating contributions, Andrea gets help behind the counter from her sister Deidre, her teen-aged niece Krysten, and her nephew Aaron, an accomplished drummer. The menu always includes flavored and non-flavored coffees as well as an array of homemade pastries and muf-

fins. Andrea's coffee comes exclusively from Barrington Coffee Roasting, and she offers latte, cappuccino, and espresso. Iced coffee is available in the summer. In addition, there are breakfast sandwiches with eggs, cheese, bacon, or sausage, served on bagels or croissants. For a quick lunch, there's homemade soup and chili, sandwiches, pasta salad, or hot dogs.

The coffee shop is off to a very good start, and Andrea has hopes for a bigger menu in the future. "Andrea is very entrepreneurial," says Deidre. "She gets all these ideas for things to do, and she actually follows through on them."

—Ellen Weiss



HAIR-SKIN-BODY-NAILS

413-229-0258

647 North Main St. (Rte. 7)  
Sheffield, MA 01257

Hours: Daily 9-5,  
Thurs. 12-8, Sat. 8-1

REDKIN • MATRIX • OPI  
ESSIE • DR. HAUSCHKA



## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT SHEFFIELD BUSINESS PARK



Two of the new businesses in the Business Park off East Stahl Rd already have their buildings up. McElroy Scenic Services, at left, which moved from Millerton, does scenery and set construction. Spark Management, below, engineers and manufactures precision lighting instruments for TV, movies, still photography and architecture.



### TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Assessors	229-7001
Building Inspector	229-7006
Fire Dept.	
non-emergency	229-7033
Library	229-7004
Police Dept.	
non-emergency	229-8522

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Sheffield in Celebration  
Saturday, September 9, 2006



**CATERING**

All Size Parties

**DELI**

Specialized Sandwiches,  
Soups, Salads & Homemade Foods

LOTTERY · BEER · WINE · GROCERIES

139 South Main St., Sheffield, MA  
413-229-6610

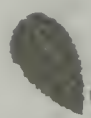


SANDRA PRESTON REAL ESTATE  
Massachusetts, Connecticut & New York Properties

Our office on Route 7, in the part of Sheffield known as "The Plain," is a lovely two-and-a-half-story Early Greek Revival with five bay front and eyebrow windows set into a deep cornice under a hip roof. Heavy corner pilasters and a south funeral door are distinct features of this building which was built as a residence in ca. 1825 by Return E. Jones.

PO Box 688, Rte. 7, Sheffield, MA 01257  
(413) 229-2077 Email: [pressa@verizon.net](mailto:pressa@verizon.net)  
Sandra Preston, Broker, GRI, CRS





## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**Biennial Silent Auction & Tag Sale.** The Sheffield Historical Society is repeating its hugely successful Silent Auction & Tag Sale. After the fun of 2004's July event, co-chairs Rene Wood and Jim Miller have joined forces to make it happen again. Countless Society members and friends are working to make this another event to be remembered.

The Second Biennial Silent Auction and Tag Sale will take place on July 8 on the American Legion grounds on Route 7 (corner of Cook Road). The Silent Auction will be open from 7:30am-3:00pm. A partial listing includes the following: a Sheffield organic farm tour and lunch; a quilters weekend for six; vacation getaways; art and antiques; quilts and pottery; cut glass & silver; gift certificates to local restaurants; 1820's mahogany clock; antique watch collection; a huge hand-braided rug; small furniture and lamps; decor items; housewares; and unique services. Items continue to be generously donated so many more items are anticipated.

The Tag Sale will open for Early Buying from 7:30-9:00 (\$10) and continue until 4:00.

Lunch will be available. Come join the fun!

**Art show at the Old Stone Store.** Judy Fischer, an artist from Goshen, CT, displays her artwork from July 8-30. She is a sculptor working in stone and clay. She will also include a selection of her paintings, in oil and watercolor. In addition, some unique furniture, crafted by Fisher's late husband, Charles, will be on view.

Fisher belongs to, and has exhibited at, The Washington Art Association, The Kent Art Association, and Artwell, in Torrington. She has exhibited at the First National Bank of Litchfield, the Morris Reading Room, and the Rose Gallery in Kent. She has studied with sculptor Stanley Bleifield and watercolorist Diane Maxey. Fisher's work is also found in private collections.

Fisher says, "I am very excited to be exhibiting at the Old Stone Store this July. I hope you will come and see this varied and eclectic show. You will find it interesting and enjoyable."

**Exhibits and panels on African-American history.** The summer's final exhibition is a collaborative project, funded by a \$5,000 grant award from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. The Sheffield Historical Society, in collaboration with a number of other local agencies, will present a multi-level exploration of the African American Heritage in the Southern Berkshires. This exploration takes the form of an exhibit, a symposium, and a celebration of this area's most famous 18th-century African American (all events are open to the general public).

"If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window" will open in SHS's Old Stone Store on Saturday, August 5 (opening reception 1 to 3), and remain on view through Sunday, October 29, 2006.

This exhibit will explore Elizabeth Freeman's story: her daily life under the Ashley roof, her flight from slavery, and her

final victory through the court system of Massachusetts.

Materials uncovered during the research for the book *If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window*. A number of personal stories will be recounted, such as the life of Jupiter Rogers, a black who was able to purchase land in Sheffield prior to 1800. Economic transactions and how they assisted or restricted life for slaves and free blacks will be explored. One such story is that of Zack Mullen, who even after obtaining freedom from Ashley continued to engage in economic transactions with the family.

Exhibit panels will allow local citizens and visitors to explore the rich and varied history of the African American community. Among the lives to be explored will be those of well-known figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois and less well-known figures such as James Mars, a community leader and activist (1790-1880). In addition to these individual stories, there are many collective topics, such as education for black children and the "Jim Crow" school issue in Sheffield at the turn of 1900. Other segments will include the issue of blacks in the military, which in this region goes back to the Revolutionary War.

The history of slavery in southern Berkshire County will be documented by 18th-century household artifacts on loan from the Colonel Ashley House. The African American legacy in Berkshire County will be illustrated by photographs of many of the African American families, homes, and businesses of the area.

Mark your calendars for a special related symposium on Sept. 15. "If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window." In conjunction with the exhibition of the same name, a day-long symposium will be held this fall. Speakers include Dr. Joanne Pope Melish, author of *Disowning Slavery*, and Margaret L. Vetare, from Historic Hudson Valley. These two speakers will share insights into life in our region during the 1700s and 1800s, with a focus on the effects of slavery. The afternoon activities include a special panel session, chaired by Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed from MCLA and will include local residents Elaine Gunn and Wray Gunn, who will share their personal stories. The day will conclude with activities at the Colonel Ashley House. Registration fee \$10. Call the office at (413) 229-2694.

*These programs and the exhibition are made possible, in part, by support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. The Old Stone Store is also located on Route 7, on the Green in Sheffield. Hours are Saturdays from 10am-2pm, Sundays 11am-3pm, and by appointment. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday 11am-4pm; Admission fee. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday, 1:30-4pm and by appointment. For more information, contact Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org.*



# KIWANIS NEWS

The month of June has special importance in the Kiwanis year. We notify and entertain the 2006-2007 Kiwanis Scholarship winners. Most of the lucky scholars were treated to dinner in our banquet room at Limey's Restaurant on Tuesday, June 6. Beginning in January the \$27,700 in monetary aid will be paid the 37 students in this year's group. Nineteen of those so honored are graduating high school seniors. Eighteen are college students, most of whom were previous honorees, who will receive Continuing Education Grants. We appreciate the great work accomplished by Anita Diller and her Scholarship Committee.

Also in June, the Little League regular season came to an end with the All Star Game on Sunday, June 25, at the Sheffield Town Park field. These two projects represent the Kiwanis Club's primary expenditures – money well spent with the generous support from the nine communities we serve. Our thanks goes to Jim Kern, who served as the League President again this year. Major gratitude goes out to all the coaches and managers who give so selflessly and generously of their time and talents. There would not be a program without these great leaders. The All Star team will continue to play in area tournaments. And Kiwanis also has two Babe Ruth squads and an American Legion team on the fields.

Beginning on Sunday, July 9, and continuing until the final concert on Saturday, August 12, the majority of our members will be occupied in some of the tasks we perform at the Berkshire Choral Festival. This 25th Anniversary season of concerts has the Kiwanis team parking cars for the performances, serving

refreshments from the trailer to Saturday night audiences, and maintaining a cocktail bar for the singers during the weekdays. This BCF event, the Golf Tournament, and the Valentine Scholarship Raffle comprise our chief fund-raisers.

Looking ahead to the month of September, we now plan to hold our Annual Steak Roast in connection with Sheffield in Celebration on Saturday the 9th. This year the event will benefit the Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department and we look forward to this collaboration. Watch for details when the Sheffield Celebration advertising appears.

Later in September (no date specified as yet) we plan to take over Station WSBS airwaves for several hours in Great Barrington for the annual Radiothon. Direct contact will be made with our many generous supporters as the event nears.

We are proud to announce that JoAnn Shmulsky, a Sheffield Kiwanis member, was featured in a story in the Kiwanis International Magazine, July issue, covering her trip to Africa. She spent two weeks with a traveling dental clinic bringing supplies and services from the USA. The dual sponsorship for JoAnn's trip came from Fathers of the Outreach and the Sheffield Kiwanis Club.

Meanwhile, the club continues its monthly Litter Patrol along 2 miles of Highway 7, and we take our "turn" at the Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's Center in Great Barrington every 5 or 6 weeks.

—Richard L. Goodwin

*The Sheffield Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at 7:00pm at Limey's Restaurant.*



## Orchard Shade Bed & Breakfast

999 Hewins Street  
Sheffield, MA 01257

413-229-8463  
[www.orchardshade.com](http://www.orchardshade.com)

## Sheffield Office Products

**Copiers • Fax Machines • Printers  
Blue Print Machines**

*Sales, service and supplies since 1985*

**Phil Fabres, Prop.**

**413-229-2669 • 413-822-4430**

## Farmers' Market Sheffield

**Fridays  
4 to 7  
center  
of town**

**Sheffield's Weekly  
Community Gathering  
Place!**

Farm Fresh Produce,  
Organic Eggs & Meats,  
Berkshire Breads  
& Baked Goods,  
Local Cheese & More!



A PROUD MEMBER OF BERKSHIRE GROWN



## COMMUNITY TRAILS & SCHOOL COLLABORATIONS

At the Sheffield Land Trust's Annual Meeting on June 17 a handful of hardy souls braved the morning rain to tour the community trails recently acquired by the Land Trust and were rewarded with a bonus opportunity to ride in the Mt. Everett E3 Program's solar vehicle; and by the afternoon's pot-luck lunch, meeting and program the tent was not only full but Mother Nature had turned off the waterworks providing the opportunity for tours of the school's aquaculture program, the new arboretum and the vernal pool trail. SBRSD Superintendent Valerie Spriggs, armed with an umbrella, greeted the morning attendees and Mt. Everett Principle Glen DeVoti welcomed the afternoon crowd to the school campus, describing its many programs and inviting everyone to return to discover more about the school.

Undaunted by the morning rain or mosquitos, volunteers Anna James and Sam Barrett provided the guided trail walks on the Dohoney property (off Berkshire School Rd) donated to the Land Trust several years ago by Janet Dohoney in memory of her husband James P. Dohoney, and the Cosgriff property (off Salisbury Rd) purchased by the Land Trust as a safe walking route to school and community resource. As explained at the meeting, the long-term goal is to link the existing trails, including the Vernal Pool Trail developed by the School under the guidance of teacher Carol Ide, to provide a network of interpretive trails for the school and community.

Janet Dohoney was on hand to say a few words about how much in keeping the connection with the school was with her husband's long-time advocacy on behalf of youth and students, and the Land Trust presented her with a sign to be installed, dedicating the Dohoney Trail and commemorating her donation of the property and his dedication to students.

The Land Trust is fundraising to make improvements to the trails, including replacing the bridge over Schenob Brook, and will be collaborating with a number of school programs to make trail improvement process a place-based educational opportunity as well. The School's Environmental Science class's new Arboretum Program being developed by teacher Kris Covey to identify and steward the trees and school environs will help with tree and invasives identification, as well as GPSing the trails for more

accurate mapping and stewardship and helping to create interpretive signage, all in conjunction with doing the same on the adjoining school property.

The Arboretum program is another collaborative community effort being developed by Covey in conjunction with local and regional organizations that will not only steward existing trees, but also grow new natives for planting on the school grounds and in the community (see May/June issue for details). Covey explained that once the program has finished mapping the schools trees, he hopes to be able to provide this service to the Town as well.

The Trust will also be working with the Building Structures and pre-vocational programs under Curtis VonReuden, Art Batacchi and David Brown on the signage, bridge and (eventually) benches. The Trust is timing the permitting process for the bridge so that students will have the opportunity to experience the work and importance of the Conservation Commission as well.

This collaborative student-based and place-based educational approach is modeled after Ide's approach with the Vernal Pool Trail. As she explained, it may take longer, but the learning experience and sense of pride and ownership is invaluable. And as with that project, where the trail and platform are a way for students and the community to experience and observe the unique surrounding ecosystems without damaging them, that is the goal for the Land Trust's trail network as well. The aim is for these properties to be both recreational resources and outdoor classrooms for the school and the public.

On a related note, the Land Trust announced that it is looking for someone to take over as its Agricultural Education Coordinator position and that it is working with current Coordinator Ann Hanchett, the school and community advisors to evaluate the direction of the program in conjunction with this transition.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved with or contributing funds to any of these programs can contact the Land Trust at 229-0234, shefland@bcn.net or P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257. Questions specifically about the Arboretum, Vernal Pool Trail or Electric Vehicle programs can be directed to Kris Covey 229-8734x207, Carol Ide 229-8754x349 or Paul O'Brien 229-8734x163, respectively. Contributions are tax deductible.

### DE VRIES BUILDING SUPPLY INC.

21 BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ROAD SHEFFIELD, MA

- Lumber
- Garden Supplies
- Domestic & Livestock Feed
- Masonry
- Paint
- Insulation
- Hardware



Whether you're a contractor or doing the job yourself  
you'll find what you need at De Vries.

413-229-8777 413-229-8820 FAX

*B E R*

### Berkshire Estates Realty

Rita A. Backhaus, CBR  
Broker/Owner

Roger Belanger, Broker Associate

We are a full service agency.  
Let us represent you in your next  
sale, purchase, or rental!

Experience the Difference!!

Phone 413-528-5262

Fax 413-528-6272

www.berkshireestatesrealty.com



## BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, programs meet at Bartholomew's Cobble on Weatogue Road in Ashley Falls. Members of the Trustees of Reservations attend free or at a reduced rate. For more information, call 413-229-8600.

**Volunteer Work Parties.** Thursdays through October, 9am-11:30am. Work with staff to clear the Cobble of invasive species and learn about our native plants. Fun for all! Please call in advance. Free.

**Quest for Mum Bett.** Sat., July 1 & Aug 12, 10am-2pm  
Finish your Bartholomew's Cobble Quest - a treasure hunt hike - with a special tour of the house where Mum Bett lived. Quest clues and map available at the Cobble. Members and children: free. Nonmembers: Adult \$5, child \$3 includes both the Cobble and the Ashley House. Information: (413) 298-3239 ext. 3000

**Housatonic Paddle.** Sundays, July 2-23 & Aug. 6-27; 8:30am-11:30am & Sundays, September through October 15; 9am - 12pm. Also, Labor Day, Sept. 4; 9am - 12:00pm. Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist/guide and explore the rich and varied habitats of the river. Look for bald eagles, great blue herons, kingfishers and bank swallows. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and binoculars. All other equipment is provided. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$20, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$30, child (10-16) \$15.

**In Quest of the Eastern Cougar.** Wed., July 5, 7-9pm. Join Robert Tougas, author of the recent book "In Quest of the Eastern Cougar - A History on Extinction or Survival" for a slide presentation, discussion and book signing. Please pre-register. Members/Nonmembers: \$5 contribution.

**Live Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi.** Sat., July 8, 10:30am-12pm. Wildlife rehabilitator and former state wildlife biologist, Tom Ricardi, shows his collection hawks, falcons, owls and a bald eagle - up close and personal - and tells the story of their lives. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$8, child (4-16) \$4. Nonmembers: adult \$10, child (4-16) \$5.

**Incredible Insects.** Sun., July 9 & Aug. 19, 1:30-3:30pm. A fun-filled search for beautiful, bountiful insects. Strictly catch and release! Wear long pants and socks. Please pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6; family \$18.

**Moonlight Paddle.** Tues., July 11, 7-9pm & Thurs., Sept. 7, 6:30-8:30pm. Enjoy a moonlit paddle with a naturalist/guide and look for otter, beaver, bats and other wildlife. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$20, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$30, child (10-16) \$15.

**Reptile Roundup.** Sun., July 16 & Aug. 27, 1:30-3:30pm. Search fields and wetlands for snakes and turtles with a naturalist/guide. Learn about the habits and homes of these reptiles. Amphibians and other critters won't be overlooked! Please pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6; family \$18.

**The Rest of the River—PCB Clean-up of the Housatonic South of Pittsfield.** Tues., July 18, 7-9pm. Over the next two years a plan for further remediation of the Housatonic River will take form. Join Tim Gray of The Housatonic River Initiative for a recap of the PCB clean-up in Pittsfield and a presentation on the prospects for cleaning the rest of the river. Please pre-register. Donations welcome.

**Canoe Trip—Sheffield Covered Bridge to Bartholomew's Cobble.** Sun., July 30, 9am-2pm. Explore an extraordinarily scenic 9-mile stretch of the Housatonic River, rich with wildlife and local history with a naturalist/guide. Bring a picnic lunch. Call for more information. Minimum 7 participants. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$40, child (12-16) \$25. Nonmembers: adult \$60, child (12-16) \$35.

**Wild Edibles.** Sat., Aug. 26, 1-3:30pm. Learn to identify dozens of wild edibles, how to collect them ethically, and how to incorporate them into your own cuisine. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$6, child \$3. Nonmembers: adult \$8, child \$4.

## Solutions

103 North Main St.  
Sheffield, MA  
(413) 229-8516

  
**BERKSHIRE BANK**  
Trusted Solutions™

[www.berkshirebank.com](http://www.berkshirebank.com)

Member FDIC

Member DIF

## Berkshire County Properties, Inc.

48 Main Street, PO Box 277 S. Egremont, MA 01258

### MARY ALICE WELCH

Broker Associate

Office: 413-528-3340

Fax: 413-528-3899

Residence 413-229-7776

E-mail: Cprop@bcn.net

Voice mail ext.15



Est. 1967

## SHEFFIELD REALTY

PO BOX 381

SHEFFIELD, MA 01257

LET EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU

BOB VAN DEUSEN-BROKER

PHONE: 413-229-8861





Top left: Veterans and soldiers lead the parade back down Route 7 in the center of Sheffield after the service at the Parade grounds. Top right: Veterans of many wars gather at the cemetery on School Street in Ashley Falls to receive carnations in tribute for their service.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

### April

- 7 John T. Jr. and Barbara Horton to David L. Ralph Jr., property at Hillside Ln, \$65,000.
- 24 Christopher Lanier, Trustee to Constance M. Cincotta, property at 250 Rote Hill Rd, \$570,000.
- 27 James S. & Judith T. Weston to Elizabeth Maldonado, property at 29 Richard Dr, \$343,000.
- 28 Peter H. Levin to Dana H. Biberman, property at 229 Silver St, \$289,000.

### May

- 1 Michael Igoe to Gilmore's Berkshire LLC, property at Hulett Hill Rd, \$85,000.
- 8 Mary T. Sciarra to Michael R. & Wendy L. Koldys, property at Redwood Ln, \$1,000.
- 10 Bruce A. Fyfe to Edwin J. Dobson, property at 163 Main St, \$442,000.

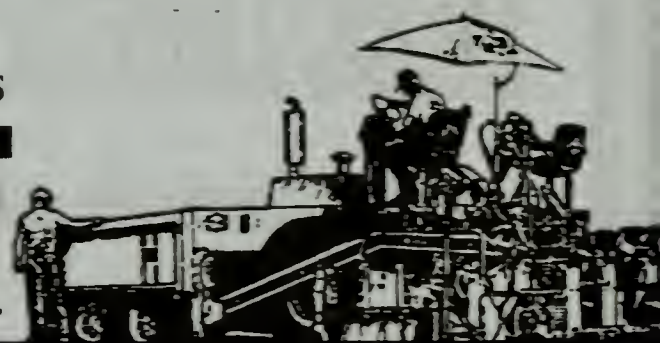
# 'Rocky Road' should only mean ice cream.

Of course, if you mean your driveway instead it leaves a bitter taste, doesn't it. Then this is the time to call B. Metcalf. With 20 years experience, B. Metcalf promises a quality paving job with an extremely courteous crew, quick response, clean worksite and remarkable turnaround. Now doesn't *that* sound sweet?

Quality Asphalt Paving for Your Home and Business

# B. METCALF

Please call us at 413-243-3388 for a free site visit and estimate.





## July

- 1 Children's Programs begin, Bushnell-Sage Library, p. 10
- 4 Independence Day
- 6 Planning Board meeting, Town Hall, 7:30pm, p. 18
- 8 Women's Day author talk, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2pm, p. 10
- 8 Second biennial silent auction and tag sale, American Legion Hall, sponsored by SHS, 7am-3pm, p. 22
- 8 Art Show opens, Old Stone Store, (ends July 30), p. 22
- 16 Deadline for sporting license permit, Town Clerk's Office, p. 15
- 17 Kops 'N Kids day, Sheffield Town Park Ropes Course, p. 14
- 18 Planning Board meeting, Town Hall, 7:30pm, p. 18
- 19 Kops 'N Kids tour Westover Air Base, p. 14
- 26 TAIZE Workshops, Christ Church, p. 9

## August

- 1 Planning Board meeting, Town Hall, 7:30pm, p. 18
- 5 African American Exhibit opens, sponsored by SHS. Opening reception 1-3pm, Old Stone Store, p. 22
- 12 Annual Parish Fair, Christ Church, p. 9
- 15 Sheffield Times deadline
- 18 Planning Board meeting, Town Hall, 7:30pm, p. 18
- 18 Kids' Day, Sheffield Farmer's Market, p. 4
- 21 Sheffield Historical Society Program—Unveiling of site as stop on Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail, p. 3
- 26 Pigge Roast, sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society, American Legion Hall, p. 7
- 30 Deadline to register to vote, Town Clerk's Office, p. 15

### SEE ALSO:

Bartholomew's Cobble, p. 25; Sheffield Historical Society, p. 22; Upper Housatonics American Trail, p. 3

## ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. "1<sup>st</sup>", "3<sup>rd</sup>" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. \* indicates appointment needed.

### Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (p3)
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6-7:30pm
- Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1<sup>st</sup>

### Tuesdays:

- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am-Noon
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (except November)
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

### Thursdays:

- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 5-7pm
- \*Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- \*Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

### Fridays:

- Farmer's Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 3:30-6:30pm

### Saturdays:

- Saturday Market, Dewey Memorial Hall, 9:30am-1pm
- Marketplace, American Legion Hall, 10am-3pm
- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>

### Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2<sup>nd</sup> (p.11)

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

I want to support the Sheffield Times! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \_\_\_\_\_, made payable to the Sheffield Association, PO Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(where you would like the Sheffield Times sent)

☐ I'd like my contribution to remain anonymous

☐ I'd like to get more involved with the Sheffield Times

☐ I am particularly interested in or have experience with \_\_\_\_\_

The Sheffield Times is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. Everyone who makes a donation will receive a copy by mail, so please note on this form if you do not want it sent to you and we won't add to your recycling pile! Donations are tax-deductible through a partnership with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.



# SAVE THE DATE!

VENDORS, EXHIBITORS, &  
VOLUNTEERS WANTED

---

*For Sheffield in Celebration*  
Saturday, September 9, 2006

---

Contact Dave Smith (229-9956) or  
Kathy Orlando (229-8789, wildkato@aol.com)

Food Court contact Barb Davidson (229-8091).



## **Sheffield TIMES**

Community Newsletter for  
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA  
P.O. Box 1339  
Sheffield, MA 01257  
sheffielddtimes@hotmail.com

Andrea Scott and Rob Jenter  
1215 Salisbury Rd.  
Sheffield, MA 01257